Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-061 *30 March 1988*

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LD301223 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Activity—An Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio announced that three "Al-Husayn" missiles were fired simultaneously at Esfahan the morning of 30 March. Meanwhile, a large Cypriot tanker carrying Iranian oil was attacked and set ablaze by Iraqi warplanes in the Gulf, according to Athens radio.

In earlier action, Iraqi planes raided oil installations on Lavan Island 29 March, setting their targets ablaze, according to a communique carried by Voice of the Masses. Other air strikes were directed at a Hawk missile battery on the northern front and at the cities of Hamadan, Bakhtaran, Salehi, and Khorramabad. Tehran radio reported that nine people were killed and a number injured in the air raids on cities. Iran retaliated by firing two missiles at Mandali, the radio said, and its warplanes also struck at Iraqi military targets in the "Val-Fajr-10" and Faqqeh sectors.

A war communique cited by IRNA also claimed that two Iraqi warplanes and one helicopter were downed, but this was denied in Iraqi military statements carried by INA. An Iraqi source cited by INA likewise rebutted Iranian reports of Iranian-Iraqi fighting in the Faqqeh area, stressing that such allegations are an attempt to divert attention from the losses sustained by the Iranian regime in clashes with Iranian opposition forces. The Iraqi agency reported that several Iraqi civilians, including three children, were killed by Iranian shelling of Basra.

Iranian Missile Power—Mass production of Iranian-made missiles will shortly enable Iran to fire as many as 20 missiles a day into Baghdad, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in an interview cited by IRNA. He told the monthly PASDAR-E ESLAM that Iran will produce missiles with a 130 km range, stressing that these are not imitations of Scud-B's or other missiles.

Iraqi Criticism of UN—INA transmitted the text of a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which 'Aziz expressed Iraq's "bitterness and disappointment" at the "biased and unbalanced" nature of a recent UN official statement. The message accused Perez de Cuellar of ignoring Iran's invasion of Iraqi territory, its shelling of Iraqi cities, its "aggressions" against other Arab states, and its "flagrant violations" of international law, adding that this "casts a shadow on your stand and the stands of some states."

As for the "campaign regarding Iraq's use of chemical weapons," 'Aziz claimed that Iran has used chemical weapons on the battlefronts several times. Iraq is defending itself against "barbarians," he added, and its people are determined to use "all available abilities and means against the criminal invaders."

USSR on Gas Attacks—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov "strongly condemned" the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, TASS reported, and he called on all parties to observe the Geneva protocol banning such weapons.

Turkish Comment—The recent Iranian air attack on a Turkish border area may have been intended to undermine Turkey's relations with Iraq, the Turkish defense minister stated in remarks cited by Ankara radio. He noted that Turkish aircraft and antiaircraft weapons have been alerted to respond to future violations of Turkish airspace.

Israel

Territories—An Arab woman was killed and three other local inhabitants were injured during a riot in the Ramallah area 30 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that an IDF soldier was also injured. The IDF spokesman's official summary of the situation the previous day, as reported by IDF radio, contained no reports of major incidents save for the disturbances in Tulkarm, where eight Arabs were reportedly wounded. However, the leftist daily 'AL HAMISHMAR contended that 3 Arab youths were killed and about 12 injured in the clashes with IDF soldiers near Tulkarm. The paper also reported that three other Arabs were wounded in clashes with security forces 29 March and disclosed that the number of detainees is currently around 4,000.

For the Palestinians, the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio reported that "tumultuous" demonstrations were continuing in several West Bank refugee camps. The radio also denounced the headman of Shu'fat camp for meeting with the commander of the IDF Central Command.

Comment—In further comment on the 3-day closure of the territories broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir maintained that the objective of achieving order and peace justifies the means, which are "not important." Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also expressed support for the IDF's "timely" and "transitional" measures, in remarks broadcast by the radio. Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon again criticized Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's handling of the situation, telling the radio that Rabin has been "a total failure in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." Rabin responded with a radio interview in which he criticized Sharon's "magic formulas which have a dear and painful price."

As for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' upcoming visit to the region, Shamir said it was Shultz who initiated the trip and who will therefore have to present new ideas, IDF radio reported. Shamir expressed hope that Shultz "will not discuss talks with PLO members with us." Shultz' recent meeting with two PNC members was sharply denounced by a writer in MA'ARIV, who viewed this as an example of the Americans "spitting in our face." The United States has thrown away its principle of uncompromising war against international terror under the influence of State Department Arabists who want to maintain "secret contacts with the champions of terror," the commentator asserted.

Egypt

Saudi Arabia Relations—President Husni Mubarak received visiting Saudi Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, general chairman of the Youth Welfare Organization, who delivered a message from King Fahd, MENA disclosed. Commenting on the Egyptian reaction to recent Israeli "threats" to destroy Saudi missiles, Prince Faysal said that Mubarak's statement on the issue had been received with "happiness."

Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah denounced Israel's "threats" of a possible military operation to destroy Saudi missiles, according to MENA. He stressed that any threats against Saudi Arabia will "seriously" affect peace in the region. He further emphasized that "all" the countries in the region except Lebanon and Sudan own missiles, with some even manufacturing and developing them, and that Israel itself owns missiles which could target Arab capitals.

Israeli Curfew Measures—Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid condemned Israel's measures closing off the West Bank and Gaza for 3 days, MENA reported. He stated that the measures constitute a "real obstacle" to the peace process and called on Israel to abandon its use of force and policies of "violence and confrontation."

Libyan Border Announcements—Commenting on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's announcement that Libyan troops will be withdrawn from the Egyptian border, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said he welcomes "any move that would consolidate Egyptian-Libyan ties," MENA reported. He described Egyptian-Libyan ties as "brotherly, good, and strong."

Meanwhile, according to Egyptian sources cited by Lebanon's Voice of National Resistance radio, a Libyan envoy has arrived in Cairo. The envoy, accompanied by a "personal envoy" of the UAE president, is carrying a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi to President Mubarak concerning the Libyan leader's decision to withdraw troops and open the border, the radio reported.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah addressed a message to the Afghan armed opposition groups, Kabul radio reported, in which he urged them to participate in the upcoming elections and said the election rights of all opposition "compatriots" will be "completely assured." Najibullah noted that 54 of the 229 constituencies set up for parliament's lower house elections are located in areas under the armed opposition's control, while 18 of 62 constituencies for senate elections are also located in these areas. He promised that 25 percent of the senate seats will be reserved for the opposition.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerasimov denied news agency reports that four Soviet military advisers were killed 27 March in a bomb blast in Kabul, TASS reported. Addressing a weekly ministry news briefing in Moscow, Gerasimov asserted: "Nothing of the sort has happened. All the Soviet advisers are alive and well." The Soviet ambassador in Kabul cited by TASS stated that there were two explosions in Kabul "last week," which had no "particular" consequences.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Ready To Meet With Israeli Officials'

LD301320 Kuwait KUNA in English 1208 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 30 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said he was ready to meet with Israeli officials within the framework of an international peace conference.

Radio Europe Number One quoted 'Arafat as saying "We have courageous men for this purpose and we are waiting for theirs."

Asked whether he would rather meet with either Premier Yitzhaq Shamir or Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, 'Arafat said hw would meet with "any one of them who is ready to go into talks to achieve a just peace for both parties."

Qaddumi on Shultz Meeting With Palestinians

JN281714 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1625 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] An official Palestinian source has stated the following: Replying to a question on the meeting held in Washington on Saturday morning, 26 March, between U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and brothers Dr Edward Sa'id and Dr Ibrahim Abu Lughud, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has said:

We have reviewed the outcome of this meeting and cannot but express our satisfaction with this step. The brothers expressed the political stand as defined by the PLO vis-a-vis representation, national rights, the independent Palestinian state, and an international conference on the basis of the UN resolutions and under its supervision.

Brother Abu al-Lutf added that our people's blessed uprising has consolidated the PLO's political standing in the international community and the inalienable national rights of our people have become a basic element for achieving peace in the Middle East.

PLO Official Holds Moscow News Conference

LD251339 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 25 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official has disclosed tangible political coordination between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria and said the relationship between them would soon improve significantly after a four-year rift.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the chief PLO information officer, told a press conference here Thursday that Syria and the PLO have recently been engaged in "a profound dialogue" over how to shape their ties.

'Abd al-Rahman, who is also member of the Palestine Central Council, said Syria, Lebanon and the PLO can be the front that would counter the American-Israeli designs in the region. He said that the three parties should rectify the relationship between them accordingly, and pointed out that "friendly powers" were successfully trying to help Syria, Lebanon and the PLO brush aside their differences.

He was apparently referring to the Soviet Union's efforts to effect a conciliation between Damascus and the PLO leadership after a split over how the Middle East crisis should be settled. Spealking of "tangible" progress in the PLO-Syrian rapprochement, 'Abd al-Rahman referred to the synchronized announcement by the two sides that they would attend an Arab summit suggested by Algeria to enlist support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied areas. 'Abd al-Rahman is heading a Palestinian delegation on a visit here at the invitation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

He told the press conference the uprising would continue until the Israeli occupation forces were driven out of Arab territories. He added that more than 200 Palestinians were killed since the revolt erupted early last December. Three thousand Arabs had been detained and 7,000 or so were injured since then, he said.

On his visit to the Soviet Union, the Palestinian official said he will be meeting a number of Soviet officials on planned activities intended to mark the "Land Day" on March 30 in the Israeli-occupied territories. He noted that the Unified Command of the Uprising had decided to turn the Land Day into an occasion to pour out Palestinian fury.

Al-Quds Radio Reports West Bank Activities

Ramallah, Al-Birah 'Isolated'

JN291252 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1055 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We have just received the following: The Zionist enemy has completely isolated Ramallah and Al-Birah. It has also isolated Nabulus by setting up military barriers at the city's main and branch entrances. The enemy forces have prevented citizens from entering or leaving Ramallah, Al-Birah, and Nabulus.

Camp Foils Israeli Attack

JN291601 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We just received the following: The inhabitants of Al-Duhayshah camp foiled the third Zionist attempt to storm the camp today. The camp has been the scene of continuous demonstrations over the past 3 days.

'Fierce Clashes' Continue

JN291614 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1546 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We just received the following: Tumultuous demonstrations took place in Al-Am'ari camp in the Ramallah District today. Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets, pelting the Zionist enemy soldiers with stones. They succeeded in destroying more than 10 Zionist military vehicles at the camp entrances.

Fierce clashes continue to take place and large numbers of Zionist forces are now trying to storm the camp after imposing a siege on all its entrances. The Zionist soldiers are preventing the inhabitants from entering or leaving the camp.

Rural Council Head Resigns

JN291632 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We just received the following: The head of the rural council of Kafr Thulth has submitted his resignation before the people in the village mosque. Other collaborators also declared their repentance and promised not to collaborate with the Zionist enemy a second time.

Demonstrations in Qalandiyah

JN291643 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1613 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers: We just received the following: Tumultuous demonstrations took place in the Qalandiyah camp at 1400 today. Demonstrators set car tires on fire in the streets while the Zionist forces opened fire and fired gas bombs on the demonstrators.

Mitzna' Meets Shu'fat Mukhtar

JN291950 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] In an attempt to suppress the uprising in Shu'fat camp, the so-called commander of the central region, terrorist 'American Mitzna', and several high-ranking Zionist officers arrived in the camp yesterday morning. They secretly met with the mukhtar of the camp, whose name we will not mention. The talk during this meeting, which took place in the mukhtar's house, dealt with adequate means to suppress any popular movement in the camp.

It has been learned that following the meeting with terrorist Mitzna', the mukhtar formed a committee composed of several agents to watch the youths of the camp and to suppress any popular movement against the Zioinst enemy forces.

The popular committee in Shu'fat camp warned the mukhtar and his suspect committee against taking any action in the service of the Zionist enemy. The committee affirmed that the Palestinian Arab people are stronger than the Zionists and that no voice should rise above that of the uprising. And thus will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Land Day Appeal Aired

JN300845 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0755 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] O struggler brothers, O our people throughout Palestine: Since yesterday, and even before that, the Zionist enemy radio has begun to ask and urge the sons of our people in Palestine, Haifa, Yafo, Nazareth, Lod, Ramla, and all other Palestinian cities and villages, as well as our people in the West Bank and Gaza, to remain quiet today on Land Day.

O our brothers, the Zionist entity is fully aware that the uprising of our people and kinfolk will continue and that our kinfolk will not remain quiet as usual on Land Day. The enemy is trying to weaken you and your determination by making promises and raising false slogans, which you know very well. These slogans are covered with democracy, about which the enemy is continuing to boast and claiming that it is a civilized entity. The essence of these slogans is aimed at destroying your heroic uprising and your national rights, which are known well by the entire world. The whole world supports you and your struggle and condemns the Zionists and their brutal practices against you.

O our brothers and kinfolk in Palestine, the hour of salvation has come— salvation from injustice, repression, and aggression—and the good news of freedom is hovering over you. Continue to adhere to the good land and the national soil. Continue your cooperation and close your ranks in the face of the unjust Zionist-U.S. tyranny. Beware of the weak people, the false slogans, and the deceived and deceivers. God is great and supports your struggle, God is great and supports your heroism, and God is great and supports your struggle and steadfastness. God is with us. Victory is imminent. We are together on the path of liberation and the freedom of the people.

Egypt

Reaction to Al-Qadhdhafi's Remarks on Borders

'Welcomed' by Ghali

NC291224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has welcomed any move that would consolidate Egyptian-Libyan ties. Commenting on yesterday's remarks by Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Ghali said that the ties between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples are brotherly, good, and strong.

Al-Qadhdhafi announced yesterday that all Libyan troops positioned near the Egyptian-Libyan borders will be withdrawn and that the Libyan Eastern Military Zone will be abolished. He also said that Libyan borders with Egypt will be reopened.

Message Sent to Mubarak

NC300710 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] According to informed Egyptian sources, a Libyan envoy, accompanied by a personal envoy of the UAE president, has arrived in Cairo from Tripoli. The Libyan envoy is carrying a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, dealing with al-Qadhdhafi's decision to open the border between the two countries and to withdraw Libyan troops from the Egyptian border.

Reports have referred to efforts to hold a meeting between Al-Qadhdhafi and Mubarak under the patronage of Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan.

Mubarak Rejects 'Tricks'

NC301552 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak made a statement to newsmen today after attending celebrations of Al-Jizah Governorate's national day. He said:

[Begin recording] [Mubarak] We hope we will be able to reach a solution, that Shamir will respond to the peace call and not oppose an international conference, so that we can sit at a negotiating table. We hope the PLO will be invited as part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation so that we may resolve the issue.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your comment on Al-Qadhdhafi's recent speech and its effect on Egyptian relations?

[Mubarak] The speech will have no impact on Egyptian-Libyan relations, as it is aimed at deceiving the Libyan people. He said: We decided to withdraw forces. What forces? He has no troops along our borders and neither do we. If he is deceiving his people, he is free to do so. He has no forces on our border; nor do we. Talk of forces on the border recalls World War I. These are not my words only.

There are absolutely no forces along the border, neither Egyptian nor Libyan. He says he wants to open the borders. Will he open the borders to [send] bombs or what? I warn him very strongly if that is his intention. Let him beware of trying such a trick; I know all his tricks.

In the second part of his speech Al-Qadhdhafi challenged the Egyptian people. He seeks to separate the people from the leadership. I tell him: Do not do that. Egypt is one people, one man, and one word. There is democratic life in Egypt, and parties can express their views. Do not think you can play with these parties to destroy their country. I tell you no. The parties are Egyptian and will say nothing more, because every Egyptian is patriotic.

As for his challenge about his great river, I know what his great river is: a failure on which he has spent billions. It has been proven that he will get no water from underground. He wants me to link the Nasir Lake to Libya. I would rather use that lake for the new valley, and thus have another valley to cultivate. Shall I prepare and plant his land, or plant the desert for the Egyptian people? Shall I cultivate land for 1.5 million people, or for 54 million?

He wants me to link Al-Nubariyah with the great river at Tubruq. Goodness, why should I do this? He wants to fund this project although he is bankrupt and has not paid off his debts, even though his people total only 1.5 million and have as much income as Egypt. Despite this, you can see the difference between Egypt and Libya. May God guide him. I wish him guidance, and I hope for the Libyan people that God will guide this man, so that they may live and find food. Thank God we are better off than others. Thank you. [end recording]

Saudi King Sends Message to Mubarak

NC291234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, general chairman of the Youth Welfare Organization, handed Mubarak the message during their meeting today, which was also attended by Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu al-Nasr.

Following the meeting, Prince Faysal said that the message deals with bilateral, Arab, and international affairs and that it is part of the continued consultation and coordination between the two great leaders in all matters of concern to the Arab people. He added that the message is also a reflection of the good and brotherly ties between the two great leaders and the strong relations between their peoples.

Prince Faysal said the discussion during the meeting covered all aspects of bilateral ties, describing these as very positive.

Asked about when King Fahd plans to visit Egypt, Prince Faysal said it is no secret that the king regards Egypt as his second home, and he will contact President Mubarak as soon as possible to arrange such a visit at the earliest possible opportunity.

Concerning recent Israeli threats to destroy Saudi missiles, Prince Faysal cited King Fahd as saying that Saudi Arabia will obtain whatever weapons it deems appropriate for the protection of its territory and sacred places. By the sacred places, he noted, we mean the two holy mosques in our land, which we have to defend. We have every right to buy weapons from anywhere to protect and defend our country, Prince Faysal said. Our policy, and this is well known, is to protect our country. We are not bellicose.

Asked to comment on the Egyptian reaction to the Israeli threats, Prince Faysal responded that Saudi Arabia and Egypt have a common destiny, which they have shared since time immemorial.

President Mubarak's remarks, the prince announced, were a source of happiness for the Saudis—the king, the government, and the people. Every one of us was greatly moved by the remarks. Speaking as an ordinary Saudi, I would say that his excellency the president spoke as an Arab, a Muslim brother, and a man who believes, above all, in God and in the potentials and abilities of his Arab people.

Asked about the general Arab reaction to the Israeli threats, Prince Faysal said the Arab countries took honorable stands, which is not surprising from the Arab brothers. He added that all Arab countries supported the Saudi position.

The prince mentioned that the Saudi Cabinet yesterday issued a statement in which King Fahd expressed his appreciation to all the Arab countries that stood by Saudi Arabia's side.

Abu Ghazalah Denounces Israeli 'Threats'

NC292218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Washington, 29 Mar (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has denounced Israel's threats of a possible military operation to destroy the Saudi intermediate-range missiles, which the Kingdom recently obtained from the PRC.

In a statement to Egyptian journalists here today, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stressed that any threats against Saudi Arabia will create a new situation that will seriously affect peace in the region. He expressed his belief that the United States understands the Saudi position quite well and that it will not allow such military actions to happen.

He added that Saudi Arabia's procurement of such missiles did not cause the region's military situation to change, noting that the Kingdom is trying to increase its defensive capabilities in the face of Iranian threats. He added that all the countries in the region own missiles, with the exception of Lebanon and Sudan, and that some of them even manufacture and develop missiles. He noted that missile technology is no longer hard to get. He added that Israel owns missiles that have a range as far as 800 km, which could hit targets in the Arab capitals.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah emphasized that the permanent and terrifying threat to the Middle East region actually lies in the introduction of nuclear warheads to this region. He appealed to the countries of the world to rally in face of the danger posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons in this region.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah denied a report published in a U.S. magazine that he had criticized Saudi Arabia's purchase of the intermediate-range missiles from the PRC before the U.S. Congress' Foreign Relations Committee.

Israel's 'Ugly' Actions, Threats Condemned

NC291131 Cairo Television Service in English 1815 GMT 28 Mar 88

["Spotlight on the Important News of the Week" program]

[Text] Israel's threat to deal what she prefers to call a pre-emptive strike against Saudi missile sites calls for a proper re-evaluation of prevalent conditions in the area. Ever since the establishment of Israel, consecutive governments there, irrespective of their color, shade, form, or political affiliation, have been talking of nothing but peace and pleading to the world that Israel be spared the ravages and dangers of so-called Arab aggression and Arab terrorism.

Israeli propaganda was cleverly woven and the impact on world opinion for a good many years was tragically erroneous. Admittedly, Arab bickering and feuds had kept the Arab world torn apart for quite some time. This helped promote Israel's contentious propaganda campaign, since whatever Israel claimed remained one-sided against a disintegrated Arab world, and there was no Arab machinery to refute the Israeli allegations in an effective and decisive manner. Yet, all that does not change the facts about the true nature of Israel and the tragic plight she has brought to the entire area through constant aggression, brutal hostility, arrogant defiance, and a fanatic determination to keep the area in a state of endless turmoil.

The word peace, which Israel has been singing for ages, is a mere fallacy used as a cover-up for the ravages, devastation, and instability for which consecutive governments have been responsible through the years. Every catastrophe in the area has an Israeli plot or aim behind it. With absolutely no provocation whatever, Israel decided to bomb the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1980.

Without any justification whatever, Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, and ever since has plunged that once peaceful Arab country into a state of anarchy, from which the people are suffering even today with no solution in sight.

It was Israel that was responsible for the brutal massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, where the tanks crushed the miserable unarmed refugees in one of the worst bloodbaths in history. Still in Lebanon, it was Israel that connived with pro-Iranian militias to wreak havoc and pursue the drive of Palestinian genocide. It was Israel that formed, trained, and armed the so-called South Lebanese Army, which is clashing with both the regular Lebanese troops and Lebanese civilians in the south, in a bid to keep Lebanon torn apart beyond any hope of recovery.

It is Israel that took pride in its bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, hundreds of miles away, to draw attention away from King Husayn's genuine peace approach at the UN General Assembly; there the Jordanian sovereign proclaimed the Palestinians' readiness to endorse Resolution 242, recognizing Israel's right to exist, in exchange for the withdrawal from the Arab land occupied in June 1967. It is Israel that planned, charted, and dragged the United States into the Irangate scandal, which has cost many a leading American official his job and prestige and has deeply embarrassed both the White House and the American Administration.

But for Israel, no cost or embarrassment to others is too great when the ultimate aim is to add to the tragic plight of her neighbors. The Irangate scandal involved the secret delivery of American arms to Iran for use against the Iraqis in the Gulf war. The whole world was striving for a cease-fire and an end to the war, but Israel had different ideas, compatible with her hostile and destructive nature. All the more shocking to the world, but most certainly not to those well-initiated in Middle East affairs and the nature of Israeli brutality, it was Israel that applied the most horrendous repressive measures against the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, who dared raise their voice with utter frustration and claimed their freedom after two decades of Israeli oppression, despotism, and tragic conditions, which British Government Minister David Mellor so rightly describes as an affront to human values.

All this Israel does in the name of peace. Israel never has pangs of conscience. It would be terribly wrong to assume such a prospect under any circumstances. What Israel strives for all along is to keep deceiving the world and committing all tragedies under the guise of so-called self-defense, without anyone abroad getting to know and see Israel's ugly face.

When the world community, including the United States, was horrified by the grim brutality shown on television as the occupation forces were murdering stone-thrower teenagers with live ammunition, dragging youngsters from homes in the middle of the night and crushing their bones, burying others alive, and dropping some from helicopters—when the world community was horrified to see that all, the Israelis decided not to put a stop to that hysterical massacre, which is bound to go down as one of the darkest chapters in the history of mankind, but took stringent measures to isolate the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from the outside world, ban foreign correspondents from most areas, and clamped a rigid censorship on their reports.

To Israel, what matters is not right or wrong but that she continue to flout all and every human principle and value without being branded as an aggressor, an enemy of peace, and an outright torturer of man. In a desperate attempt to avoid that, Israel, faithful to her tradition, cried wolf once again as reports told of the mounting of Chinese-built medium-range missiles in Saudi Arabia. Israel started clamoring and spoke of a so-called preemptive strike to avert the danger of those war devices. The plan had two objectives: one, to show Israel as a helpless victim that had to react for survival; and two, launching such an aggression on Saudi missile site would most certainly have world attention shifted from the present tragedy in the occupied territories and inevitably focused on the aftermath and repercussions of the new holocaust; a side issue that would give Israel a respite and allow her to deal more ruthlessly with problems in the occupied Arab land, with a world opinion too involved elsewhere to be bitterly critical.

Yet this time the Israeli scheme backfired. Not only that, but Israel has found herself faced with an Arab world infuriated by such irresponsible threats and an Egypt that gave a stern warning, in unmistakable terms, that should Israel carry out her threats against Saudi Arabia, peace in the area will be blown up altogether. It is evident that the Arabs, or for that matter the entire world, have had enough with Israeli threats, aggression, and plots. Why is Israel worried by missiles in Saudi Arabia, and was never worried by similar sophisticated war devices in neighboring Iran? Again, the preemptive strike against Saudi missiles: Is it by any chance part of a further deal with the Khomeyni regime? After all, Israeli-Iranian connivance is an open secret to all, and the feeding of Tehran's arsenals through Israeli plotting and devious measures has already caused many a scandal worldwide.

Both Israel and Iran do know that Saudi Arabia will never be the first to use those missiles which stand there as a deterrent for self-defense. And by self-defense here, we mean the term in its literal sense and not with the concept of Israel's self-styled interpretation.

If the helpless unarmed Palestinian children have been facing the Israeli war machine since December last and have grown all the more determined with mounting Israeli brutality, the message should be brought home to the Israelis; that gone are the days when unprovoked Israeli ventures against the Arab countries would not

prove tragically costly. Radio Israel itself reported on Saturday that Saudi Arabia had warned Israel through the United States that she would attack Israel with missiles if she attempted to embark on the pre-emptive strike on Saudi launching sites.

Times have changed and patience has its limits. It is high time Israel realized that a genuine peace approach is the only path conducive to the security and stability of all and that no country in the area will allow itself to remain vulnerable to further plotting and scheming by those who take pride in brutal force and aggression.

'Abd al-Majid Condemns Closure of Territories

NC291240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Egypt has condemned Israel's new measures which will close the occupied Arab territories for 3 days in anticipation of Palestinian unrest during Land Day, which the Palestinians will mark tomorrow.

In a statement he made today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the Israeli measures and their timing constitute a real obstacle to the peace process and serve to exacerbate the current situation. The foreign minister called on Israel to abandon its use of force and policies of violence and confrontation, which he said are short-sighted and bode ill for the future. He expressed hope that the Israeli Government would follow a peaceful policy which is consistent with the international consensus and which would promote rather than impede the peace process.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also said he is confident that there is a majority of peace-loving Israelis who are looking forward to peace for themselves and their neighbors. This majority, he said, is willing to make peace with the Palestinian people and is dissatisfied with the current oppressive measures, which can only make a bad situation worse.

Ghali Calls for Peace on Land Day Anniversary

NC291608 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Israel must learn the lesson embodied in the events of the Land Day Anniversary. Peace, he stated, can never be achieved through expelling people, confiscating their rights, and using repression and violence. Force is used only by those who are unable to comprehend the objective facts of history.

Ghali made this statement on the 12th anniversary of Land Day. He went on to say that recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and acceptance of an international conference remain the sole way of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and (?establishing) just peace in Palestine. All parties must work to ensure that Palestine will always remain a land of peace.

Papers Cited on Land Day

NC300826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Cairo dailies hail the struggle of the Palestinian people today on Land Day, an occasion commemorating an incident in 1976 in which six Palestinians were martyred during demonstrations protesting the confiscation of their land in Galilee.

The papers denounced the oppressive measures adopted over the past 2 weeks by the Israeli occupation forces. The measures are aimed at confronting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, which is expected to escalate on the occasion.

The papers say that, more than at any time before, this year's Land Day will be a particular strain on Israel, already embattled by the revolutionary Palestinian uprising that has been going on since 9 December 1987. The papers warned Israel of the consequences of the harsh intimidation tactics it plans to apply on the Palestinians on the occasion of Land Day. [passage omitted]

For its part, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that Land Day comes this year amid an unprecedented Palestinian uprising, which was only rekindled by repeated Israeli attempts to smother it.

The paper denounced the measures taken by Yitzhaq Shamir's government to prevent the Palestinians from celebrating Land Day, and said that Israel is using increased brutality against the Palestinians under the pretext of keeping peace and order.

The Israeli leaders, AL-AKHBAR says, proved that they never learn from the past, nor even from the present. Revolts by people in defense of their freedom and dignity cannot be smothered by force alone. Force and violence would only lead to more violence and more revolt, the paper states.

Four months of futile attempts to put down the uprising should have convinced the Israeli leaders that there are better methods than brute force to tackle such a problem; this force only exacerbates the anxiety and fear that has enveloped Israel since its inception.

The paper concludes by saying that current and future generations of Israelis will never taste quiet or peace until their leaders learn that there are other ways to seek peace than to spread terror and shed blood. [passage omitted]

Editorials View 3d Shultz Tour, Shamir Visit

NC280745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)--In their editorials today Cairo papers express their hope that U.S Secretary of State George Shultz' third Middle East tour, scheduled to start early next week, will achieve progress toward the just solution of the chronic problem that is daily becoming more complicated. The newspapers also denounce Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's actions, which constitute an obstacle to peace efforts in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that Shultz' new tour—during which he will visit Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia—comes at a time when dark clouds are hanging over the region because of Israeli intransigence, Shamir's stubborn stance, his rejection of the international conference, and his attempts to make himself the primary custodian of regional destiny and fate. The paper notes his threats against Saudi Arabia, which is seeking to strengthen its national security, and also his protest over Shultz' meeting with Palestinians without getting his prior approval.

The paper welcomes the direct dialogue between the United States, which is seeking to give an impetus to the peace efforts, and the Palestinians, whose problem constitutes the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It says that this dialogue is necessary to give impetus to the peace process and notes the statement by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that this action is a step in the right direction encouraged by Egypt, which is eager to make it a goal for reaching a peaceful settlement of the problem.

AL-AKHBAR comments on Shultz' meeting with two PNC members to hear the Palestinian view of the U.S. peace initiative, calling the meeting a welcome step which the Palestinian side must follow up when the U.S. secretary of state returns to the Middle East next week. It also indicates that the U.S. side is serious in its desire to reach a solution to the region's problems.

The paper adds that the importance of this meeting lies in the fact that the United States has for the first time ignored the shouts of Yitzhaq Shamir and his government, and the Israeli objection to an American official's meeting with two Palestinians, despite the latter's declaration that they represent the PLO and are in constant touch with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Undoubtedly, this step by President Ronald Reagan's administration—the indirect dialogue—despite Jewish and Israeli pressures, might indicate that U.S. officials have at last realized that any steps to resolve the principal conflict in the Middle East will not lead to tangible results if the principal party to the basic problem—the Palestinians—is not involved.

Concluding its editorial, the paper expresses the hope that this step will be followed by similar ones, to back U.S. credibility and strengthen all the parties' confidence in the credibility of its endeavors to restore true peace to the Middle East.

AL-AHRAM denounces Shamir's statements on Israeli television following his return from Washington. In these statements Shamir scoffed at the principle of peace for land, saying: Why do we not apply this formula to the Arabs as well? Perhaps they will agree to give more land to Israel.

The paper says: It is useless to remind Shamir of his excessive stupidity, that it is his country which is occupying Arab lands, and that his silly critereon would perhaps be proper if we were to say: If Israel takes a part of the Arabs' lands, then the proper thing to do is for the Arabs to take an equal area of land in Israel.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that U.S. support for Israel prompted Shamir's arrogant, aggressive, insolent, provocative, and derisive statements, and notes especially that they were made after his return from Washington, which indicates that he received some emotional fix during his visit there.

The paper adds: All signs indicate that Shamir went to Washington fully exhausted from the internal and external pressures represented in the Palestinian revolutionary uprising, the shift in much world public opinion against him with the approach of the election season, and international rejection of his abominable policy. But he returned with a suddenly inflated ego and high spirit, which overflows not only with conceit and arrogance but also with derision and disdain for everything around him.

AL-AHRAM adds: Shamir returned with full confidence in what he did, is doing, and perhaps what he will do, as if he had secretly received a stimulating dose, at a time when those unaware of U.S. policy thought he would receive an eloquent lesson, that he would be bitterly blamed—if not rebuked and scolded—for becoming the only obstacle to stability in the area and the biggest stumbling block to peace.

The paper concludes: We want to know the true nature of the protective vaccine Shamir received in Washington. The dose might have been excessive, causing hallucination, delirium, and frenzied laughter.

Editorial Questions U.S. Role in Peace Process

JN291006 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Questions"]

[Text] Shamir returned from Washington happy and optimistic. The reason for his happiness, as he himself has declared, is that those who frightened him with the

prospect of turbulent meetings in the U.S. capital—due to his stand vis-a-vis the U.S. initiative which, according to U.S. officials, contained all Washington's efforts and political experience in the region and its issues—have been disappointed and became agonized, as he did not hear a single tough word there. On the contrary, President Reagan and his Secretary of State Shultz have emphasized to him that despite disagreements with him over the means to push forward the peace process, the solid bases of "friendship, alliance, and cooperation" between the two countries will continue.

We do not say that Shamir is lying about his feelings. Indeed, we believe he is very honest. All evidence indicates that during his visit he was not subjected to any "friction." Even when U.S. officials, primarily Reagan and Shultz, were openly stressing that the U.S. plan is integral and must be accepted in all its provisions and time arrangements, and when everybody was expecting the strongest clash between the two sides, due to Shamir's insistence during and before the visit on rejecting the bases of the plan—an international conference and a land-for-peace barter—the true face of the intimate U.S.-Israeli relations remained and dominated the proceedings. It was not affected in the least; it suffered no harm whatsoever.

Here is President Reagan himself, even before his meeting with Shamir, affirming to the Unified Jewish Appeal organization that the "basic principle" in the U.S. Middle East policy is guaranteeing Israel's freedom and security; that the United States does not consider itself a mere "broker" or mediator to Israel, but a friend and ally; and that it will not allow anybody to cause a rift between the United States and Israel. He also affirmed that the United States will not leave Israel alone and will not impose peace on it or on others.

Here we would like to pose some questions: Since Shamir has ruined the bases of the U.S. initiative as declared by Washington itself, and since he stressed and is always stressing his rejection of this initiative, how can one explain Washington's continued affirmation that he has not yet rejected or accepted the initiative? Does Israel's "freedom," which Reagan said the United States would guarantee, along with Israel's security, include the freedom to reject peace trends according to the bases and principles which international efforts over the years have established, and which satisfy world public opinion and conscience?

What then are the boundaries of the U.S. action if the basic principle which Washington embraces—and this is a sovereign right—is absolute alliance with Israel, while it always emphasizes that it is a partner in the peace process? Justly and logically, partnership requires at least a positive neutrality between the parties to the dispute.

Morocco

Further on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani

Holds News Conference

LD271350 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Casablanca, 27 Mar (MAP)—Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, stressed that his country supports a plebiscite in the Sahara.

At a news conference in Casablanca yesterday, Mr al-Mirghani pointed out that his talks with the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, concentrated on consolidating bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and current regional and international issues. He expressed his pleasure at visiting Morocco and meeting His Majesty King Hassan II, the crown prince, members of the Moroccan Government, the speaker of the House of Deputies, and leaders of the political parties.

He praised the warmth of the reception with which he was met, "which indicates the depth of the Arab and Islamic ties which bind the Moroccan and Sudanese peoples."

To a question on Sudanese mediation between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Egypt, the chairman of the Sudanese State Council stressed that his country has been carrying out such mediation for some time, and that it has led to positive results, as the two countries have agreed to stop the media campaigns against each other, withdraw some of their forces from their borders, and facilitate the crossing of borders for their citizens.

He said that the visit that he recently paid to Libya was within the framework of this mediation.

Mr al-Mirghani pointed out that Sudan is following with concern the continuing Gulf war, its escalation, and the continuation of the destruction and bloodshed. He reaffirmed his country's support for UN Security Council Resolution No 598 concerning a cease-fire, which was approved by Iraq.

He said that Sudan supports all that is beneficial for the Arab nation. To a question concerning the convening of an extraordinary summit, he said that his country supports any joint Arab action for the support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and the recovery of all the Arab lands usurped by the Zionist occupation.

Concerning the internal situation in Sudan, he explained the government's endeavors to overcome the internal problems and the ending of bloodshed in the south of

Sudan by convening a constitutional national conference, which will seek a solution to this problem through negotiations. He pointed out, at the same time, his country's commitment not to neglect Sudanese territorial integrity.

He expressed in this respect his hopes that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations will improve, pointing out that there are negotiations on containing the conflict currently taking place between the two countries, at the level of a joint committee under the chairmanship of the interior ministers.

He denied the presence of any foreign forces in his country, and mainly in the Darfur District, which borders Chad.

On the African scene, he stressed that his country supports and backs the South African people in their just struggle for freedom and the final annihilation of all forms of racism, pointing out Sudan's observance of the OAU and UN resolutions related to granting immediate independence to Namibia during 1988.

Within this framework he called on the Western countries to impose every pressure on the racist regime in Pretoria to grant Namibia its independence, and not to create any linkage between this matter and the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola.

Departs 28 Mar

LD282012 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, left Morocco late this morning at the end of an official visit to our country, which was followed by a private visit.

Before leaving Mohammed V International Airport, Al-Mirghani said his visit was totally successful and his talks with His Majesty King Hassan II were extremely positive. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Mirghani on Bilateral Ties, Regional Issues

PM300911 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 88 p 1

[Talhah Jibril report: "Ahmad al-Mirghani to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "No Coolness in Relations Between Egypt and Sudan"]

[Text] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani has denied the existence of any coolness in relations between Egypt and Sudan. In exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Casablanca while on a private visit to Morocco, Al-Mirghani said the visit to Khartoum by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was both good and distinct.

He added that ministerial committees will convene shortly to implement the brotherhood charter between the two countries, and that Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will visit Khartoum within the next few days for this purpose.

Regarding the recent mediation between Egypt and Libya, he said it was successful, pointing out he did not raise the subject of resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries, but asked both to suspend media campaigns, withdraw forces from their common borders, and allow citizens of both countries freedom of movement.

He said that President Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi agreed to this and that the two states had begun to implement what had been agreed. He added that matters can develop to the point of the resumption of diplomatic relations between them.

Al-Mirghani said Sudan would welcome the convening of the emergency Arab summit in Khartoum if this were the desire of the Arab states. He said Sudan welcomes any Arab gathering, but the issue has not yet been proposed, indicating that one must not anticipate events, since some other Arab states might seek to embrace this summit.

Regarding the results of his visit to Morocco, he said that it was beneficial inasmuch as an agreement was reached to develop cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He said that trade, cultural, information, and sports agreements will be concluded between the two countries.

On the Sahara dispute, he said that Sudan, which maintains cordial relations with the two parties in the Sahara dispute—Morocco and Algeria—has no objection to mediating between them, and that his country supports the idea of conducting a referendum in the Sahara in light of UN and OAU resolutions.

Regarding relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, Al-Mirghani said that Sudan is currently awaiting results of the meetings of the joint ministerial committee held after the meeting in Djibouti between [Sudanese Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Al-Mirghani emphasized that Sudan does not provide any support for the Eritreans because, as he says, "those who are deprived of something do not give it"; Sudan is also in need of arms, foodstuffs, and medical supplies. He indicated that Sudan would be ready to mediate between the Eritrean fighters and Ethiopia if the Addis Ababa government requested this.

Al-Banna Expresses Solidarity With Saudi Arabia

JN271828 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1737 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Mar (SUNA)—Sudan has stressed that the Sudanese Government and people stand on the side of Saudi Arabia under King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

This came in a cable to the Saudi monarch from Idris al-Banna, acting State Council chairman, on reports circulated by the international news media of statements and threats to sisterly Saudi Arabia from leaders of the Zionist entity. Al-Banna also stressed the legitimate rights of sisterly Saudi Arabia to develop its defensive, security, and strategic capabilities, to maintain its national and pan-Arab sovereignty, protect its legitimate interests, and consecrate Arab unity to face the challenges that confront the Arab nation.

He said: Due to the Kingdom's pioneering role in the Arab and Islamic nations, we emphasize our support and backing for the measures you take to safeguard the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

New Cabinet, Government Expected 29 Mar

JN271138 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Mar (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-AYYAM published here said today that Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is expected to announce the resignation of his cabinet and the formation of a new cabinet this week.

AL-AYYAM said that the new government will comprise the National Islamic Front [NIF], the two coalition parties, and a number of southern parties. The newspaper quoted a highly-placed NIF source as saying that a comprehensive agreement has been reached by the Al-Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the NIF on the policies to be pursued and the programs to be adopted by the national government. The source indicated that the national government will be announced on Tuesday [29 March].

Party Leaders Hold Talks

JN281115 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 28 (SUNA)—A top meeting between the leaders of the three major parties, in the Sudan, Al-Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Islamic National Front (INF) [as received] will be held here tomorrow Tuesday to consider the formation of the all party government in the Sudan.

The meeting will review all agreements reached by sub-committees between them regarding the formation and the shape of the government.

Minister of Energy and Mining Dr. Adam Madibu said the final agreement on the shape of the government will be announced next Wednesday indicating that the organs of the three parties will discuss today the details of the agreement which was reached between them.

Final agreement on the shape of the government is not yet been reached.

'Differences' Emerge

JN291106 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 mar (SUNA)—The political situation is still ambiguous following the emergence of differences within the upper echelons of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], the Al-Ummah Party, and the National Islamic Front [NIF] over the possibilities of approving a tripartite ruling agreement within a national framework, after the failure of the coalition DUP-Al-Ummah government which lasted for 2 years.

It seems that the upper echelon of the NIF, represented by the consultative council, faces a split over the issue of participating in the formation of a government. Some of this echelon's leaders reject NIF leader Dr Hassan al-Turabi's efforts to approve an agreement with the two parties, since this could involve the Front in an unstable government within which it would be impossible to achieve harmony.

Also, available information says that similar differences exist within the echelons of the two ruling parties [passage indistinct] in addition to other factors related to demands by the leader of the Unionists, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, in the government.

Armed Forces Chief Discusses Security, Rebels

JN251621 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA)—General 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq, chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces, has affirmed that the Armed Forces are in complete control of the situation in the operation areas in the south. He reiterated that relief organizations are cooperating with the rebel movement.

In a statement to the press today, he said that the rebel movement adopted a different tactic this year by carrying out intensive operations during the drought season instead of autumn. But, he added, the Armed Forces managed to repulse all offensives and took the initiative.

The chief of staff also affirmed that the rebel movement has sustained crushing defeats in various operation areas, especially in the Eastern Equatoria region, where our forces managed to carry out successful operations in Khor Juk [as received], Nimule, Kajo Kaji, Kyala [as received], and Aktus [as received], and in the Juba and

Bor areas, on the Al-Nasir road, where the outlaws sustained heavy losses in life, estimated at thousands. A large quantity of weapons and equipment was captured.

The chief of staff also said that the Armed Forces are currently combing the Bahr al-Ghazal area to liquidate the dens of the outlaws, affirming that the Armed Forces are in complete control of the situation; that security prevails along the railway areas, the land routes, and the river route up to Malakal; and that the initiative is in the hands of the Armed Forces.

Regarding some relief organizations that are cooperating with the rebel movement, he said competent authorities will take more measures against any organization cooperating with the rebels.

Ethiopia, Israel Reportedly Violate Airspace
JN251604 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA)—General 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq, the Armed Forces chief of staff, has stated that the Ethiopian Air Force has continued to carry out reconnaissance flights over the border areas in search of Eritrean and Ethiopian opposition forces, which Ethiopia imagines are in Sudanese territory. In a press statement today, the chief of staff noted that any violation of our border, be it by land, sea, or air, is a violation of the country's sovereignty. He expressed the hope that neighboring Ethiopia would desist from such actions.

On another level, the chief of staff said that the Israeli Air Force has reconnoitered Palestinian positions in eastern Sudan and noted that the Armed Forces do not rule out the possibility of such reconnaissance and have taken the appropriate measures to protect Sudanese airspace.

Armed Forces Seize Armed Group, Weapons
JN291506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA)—Yesterday, Monday, the Armed Forces succeeded in intercepting and seizing four land cruisers carrying 24 people and weapons and ammunition in Kabar, south of Darfur. This was announced by an official source at the Armed Forces General Command here today.

The source said the Armed Forces also seized 24 G-3 rifles, 3 Kalashnikov rifles, 6 rocket-propelled grenades, 4 machineguns, 124 G-4 rifles, 46 magazines of different types, 13,400 G-3 bullets, and two Kratal [name as received] radios.

Bomb Scare Forces Assembly Evacuation
JN270940 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum Mar, 27 (SUNA)—An identified [as received] man yesterday threatened in a telephone call that he would explode the Constituent Assembly "Parliament" and claimed that there is a bomb inside the building and asked the staff to depart their offices.

The man last Wednesday once again threatended that the blast would take place at half past one p.m.

The security force evacuated the building, cut off electricity supply and carefully examined the building but it did not find any bomb and no explosion occurred.

Kuwait

Iranian Naval Attack on Bubiyan Island Protested

LD301023 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

Following the aggression carried out by three Iranian boats against some installations on Bubiyan Island and the injuries sustained by a number of soldiers this morning, the Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires, who was informed by the Ministry's under secretary, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, of Kuwait's profound protest and condemnation of such unfriendly acts towards Kuwait, which is making every effort to halt the destructive Iraq-Iran war between the two Muslim neighbors.

This violation of Kuwait's security and sovereignty undoubtedly will aggravate the serious situation in the region and lead to results that will not serve security and stability in the region.

The Defense Ministry has announced that three Iranian armed boats this morning attempted to approach Bubiyan Island and opened fire on some military positions on the island. This led to the injury of two military personnel. Our defending forces returned fire. The Ministry added that Kuwait reserves the right to retaliate against any source committing aggression on its territory or violating its sovereignty.

Foreign Minister on Attack

LD301257 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Mar (KUNA)—Kuwait's Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and foreign minister, today expressed his profound regret for the aggression carried out by Iranian armed boats on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan.

In reply to questions by journalists in this connection, he said the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has taken measures to deal with the incident. It has also summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait who was informed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin of Kuwait's profound protest and condemnation of such unfriendly acts.

Shaykh Sabah expressed hope such incidents by Iran will not be repeated when Kuwait is striving to establish good relations and good-neighborly relations with Iran. He added: "I hope this incident will not be an obstacle to good relations and that good relations will prevail between Kuwait and all of its neighbors."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad welcomed the decision of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to pull back the Libyan forces stationed along the Libyan-Egyptian border. In reply to a question by journalists he said: "We are very happy to hear this decision which we regard as being a positive and significant step toward bolstering Arab solidarity."

He added that Arabs are in dire need of such decisions which remove obstacles from the path of Arab solidarity. The acting prime minister and foreign minister hoped fraternal relations and mutual respect will prevail among all Arabs so the Arab world can regain its reputation and self-respect and unify its stands before the world and realize the solidarity which has been in existence since 1973.

PDRY

Further on Visit by YAR Prime Minister

Sanaa Reports Talks

JN291045 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] A session of joint talks was held in Aden yesterday between Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, and Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Council of Ministers and YSP Political Bureau member in the southern part of the homeland.

The members of the delegation accompanying the prime minister and Standing Committee member and officials in the southern part of the homeland attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the session Brother Yasin Sa'id Nu'man delivered a speech. He welcomed the brother prime minister and the delegation accompanying him. He referred to the importance of the meeting as an extension of the unionist continuity between the two parts of the homeland. He said the meeting calls for satisfaction and strengthens confidence in the future of unionist action.

Nu'man emphasized the need for joint action to safeguard stability in the Yemeni arena by adhering to the unionist agreements achieved, activating unionist dialogue and action, strengthening and developing joint activities, and maintaining unionist efforts by continuing to establish and expand joint investment projects, joint exploitation of natural resources, and expansion of trade. In conclusion he expressed hope the meeting would give further impetus to unionist action and would be successful.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, then delivered a speech in which he said: Brother colleague Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, YSP political member and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of our beloved homeland; colleagues. Thank you for your valuable and comprehensive brotherly speech. Undoubtedly, we are all very happy with this fraternal meeting because it does not only bring together brothers and members of the same family, but also because it brings us together within the framework of our joint efforts to reunify the homeland.

I am not exaggerating, dear brothers, in expressing our sentiments and feelings from the very moment we arrived in this beautiful and valiant city which has both a temperate climate and a history of courageous struggle against imperialism that oppressed this dear part of the revolutionary Yemeni homeland.

Undoubtedly, you share with us the same sentiments and express these sentiments with your welcome and hospitality. Like us you are aware of the importance of our unionist efforts. I am pleased to take this opportunity to convey to you and through you to our brothers in the southern part of the homeland, the greetings and good wishes of your brothers in the northern part of the homeland led by Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress. They are all embarking on a new stage of democratic construction with the Consultative Assembly elections which are a fruit of the immortal 26 September Revolution.

The most important aims of the 26 September Revolution were the elimination of the oppressive imamate regime, the expulsion of the treacherous British imperialism, and freedom and democracy. Freedom and democracy are the basis for the growth and development of peoples and their stability. We are aware of the effective contribution of that nationalist course toward the reunification of the homeland, especially as such a goal is achieved through democratic and peaceful means.

Brother colleagues, the greatness of the unity of the homeland requires us all to multiply our unionist efforts so the level of our unionist work will be commensurate with the greatness of the desired objective. It is true we have made unionist steps, thanks to the constructive fraternal dialogue which we sought as the sole means to achieve our unionist goal from the very beginning. Such steps were strengthened by our unionist agreements, the Cairo, Tripoli, and Kuwait agreements, and the subsequent agreements in Sanaa, Aden, and Ta'izz, as well as other unionist achievements and gains attained through the Yemeni Supreme Council, our ministerial committee, and other committees.

However, no matter how great such achievements and gains, they still fall short of the achievement of restoring Yemeni unity. That prompts us all to exert efforts in various fields and on all levels so efforts will be concerted and so gains will increase.

On this occasion as I recall the level reached by our unionist steps and efforts and our latest discussions and the positive results we achieved in the third round of meetings of the joint ministerial committee held in Sanaa in late 1985, I remember with sorrow and pain the bloody events that occurred in our Yemeni homeland in January 1986. These events preoccupied us all with the efforts to end them and to contain their consequences. We are continuing our efforts to tackle the negative and known repercussions that resulted from the events and that imposed on us new responsibilities in view of the ties among the people of the one homeland.

Dear brothers, today we are embarking on an important stage of our unionist struggle and national steadfastness. Thanks to the awareness of the masses with regard to everything connected with their causes and embodied through the goals of the immortal 26 September and 14 October revolutions and thanks to the efforts of the political leaderships in the two parts of the homeland, we are capable of continuing with our unionist steps toward the desired goals, with God's help.

As a whole our unionist experiences have yielded positive results that have led to developments to develop the methods of joint unionist work. The exchange of visits by and meetings of officials of the two parts of the homeland, including the Yemeni summit meetings between Brothers President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council presidium, have contributed toward creating a favorable climate for continuing unionist work.

Ministerial meetings and coordination and consultations on Yemeni participation in Arab and international gatherings and conferences have yielded tangible results for our unionist efforts, all of which stem from the unity of goals of the immortal September and October revolutions.

Honorable brothers, I am confident that through this visit and meeting our confidence will increase in the soundness of the unionist construction in various fields, including the economic field, and the joint investment projects which will contribute toward the homeland's development and the Yemeni people's prosperity on their united land.

This meeting, which will concentrate on our national issues, will enable us to consult over pan-Arab, Islamic, and international issues, foremost among which is our Palestinian cause which is witnessing magnificent forms of courageous struggle through the steadfast popular uprising against the ugliest form of extermination, torture, and expulsion, so as to ensure further support and backing for it with all capabilities until it achieves victory through its legitimate right of establishing an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The meeting will also enable us to consult over the dangers of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the continued Iranian intransigence in refusing to accept an end to the war in accordance with the Security Council resolution and refusing to respond to peace appeals.

Brother colleagues, in conclusion I thank you once again. I wish success for our meeting, hoping that with its results it will make another step along the road of restoring Yemeni unity, our goal and our source of strength. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Topics connected with the joint unionist efforts by the two parts of the homeland were then discussed.

Meets With Al-'Attas

EA292038 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, this evening received his brother, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of the homeland, who conveyed to him greetings from his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

During the meeting, which was attended by Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Brother al-'Attas welcomed his brother, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. He said that his visit and that of the delegation accompanying him to the southern part of the homeland and the ongoing discussions are an important step among the unionist meetings between the leaderships of the two parts with the aim of making more practical steps toward laying solid foundations for restoring the unity of our Yemeni homeland and creating circumstances conducive to security, stability, and a decent life, enabling the two parts to extract and exploit natural resources, thus achieving economic and social development to ensure the homeland's future and the life and progress of the people.

He said that the continued meetings and visits between officials of the two parts expresses joint awareness of the historic responsibility placed on the two political leaderships in the two parts to realize the hopes of our people for the restoration of the unity of their homeland by peaceful and democratic means.

In a brotherly atmosphere, a number of issues relating to joint unification efforts were tackled and the importance was stressed on achieving them for strengthening coordination between the two parts in different spheres.

They also reviewed developments on the Arab arena, in particular the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territory. The two parts support the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. The international situation within the framework of the two parts coordination in this respect was also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member of the Central Committee, minister of culture and information, and head of the accompanying escort of honor.

Al-Bid Meets With Soviets on Oil Exploration

EA251125 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 88

[text] Brother "Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, this afternoon met Comrades Dinkov, USSR minister of the petroleum industry, and Chirskov, USSR minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises.

During the meeting, Comrades Dinkov and Chirskov reviewed the result of their field visits to the places of oil exploration and extraction and their discussion with their counterparts, the Yemeni comrade officials led by Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals, as well as the subsequent practical steps to implement the agreements and protocols already signed.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that the party and Government of Democratic Yemen will not spare any efforts to provide all support for the implementation of all the tasks placed on the shoulders of the comrade geologists, technicians, and workers in the field of petroleum and petroleum installations, both Yemenis and Soviets.

Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Council of Ministers, had earlier this morning met the Soviet delegation led by Comrades Dinkov, minister of the petroleum industry, and Chirskov, minister of construction of petroleum and gas enterprises in the friendly USSR. During the meeting there was a review of the progress of joint work in the field of oil exploration in our country and methods of strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation in this field.

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Iryani Returns From Visit to Syria 25 Mar

JN251908 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, returned to Sanaa from Damascus today after a 3-day visit to Syria.

During the visit, Al-Iryani conveyed a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He also held talks with Brothers Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, on bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

In a statement to SABA', Al-Iryani said he is bringing a reply message to the president from the Syrian president.

Perez de Cuellar 'Ignoring Iranian Invasion'
JN291221 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—Iraq today declared that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is ignoring the Iranian invasion of Iraqi territory and the occupation of an Iraqi city. It is ignoring all of Iran's atrocities and disregard for international law and the norms and customs that govern relations among states.

In a message to the UN secretary general, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expresses bitterness and disappointment at the biased and unbalanced statements made by Javier de Cuellar on 25 March 1988.

Tariq 'Aziz asks the UN secretary general to immediately send a UN mission to investigate the conditions of Iraqi prisoners in Iran. 'Aziz also asks the secretary general to investigate the fate of 20,000 of these prisoners, 7,000 of whom who have disappeared without the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] knowing anything about them. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency, with regard to the statement by the official UN spokesman on 25 March 1988 I have the honor to express our bitterness and disappointment at the biased and unbalanced nature of the said statement.

You know well that from the beginning of the conflict Iraq has affirmed its complete readiness to comply with the UN Charter, all provisions of international law, and all international conventions in order to reach a peaceful, just, comprehensive, honorable, and lasting settlement. Such a stand was embodied by Iraq's acceptance of all the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the latest of which is Resolution 598, and all the appeals and resolutions issued by the Nonaligned Movement and the ICO, and by its sincere and loyal cooperation with the ICRC.

You also know well that Iran has rejected the Security Council's trusteeship over the conflict and has rejected all of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council since 28 September 1980, the UN General Assembly resolutions, and all of the resolutions and appeals of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement. Events have shown that Iran does not believe in and does not comply with the UN Charter, international law, and conventions because they conflict with the nature of this aberrant regime and its aim of aggression and expansionist ambitions in Iraq and area countries.

Iran describes the UN Charter and the provisions of international law and international conventions as the product of the forces of world arrogance. Numerous experiences have confirmed that when it finds itself in a corner and finds that a part of the UN Charter or the provisions of international law and international conventions can fulfill a temporary need, Iran calls for the implementation of only that part and not other parts.

Iran began its aggression against Iraq in 1980 and has imposed war on it throughout the past 8 years. It has rejected and continues to reject a peaceful resolution of the conflict. During its war of aggression the Iranian regime has perpetrated atrocities that disgust civilized man, especially the killing and mutilation of prisoners and their burial alive, and indeed the killing of prisoners in cages of captivity. Iran has expelled the ICRC from November 1984 through December 1986 and prevented it from carrying out its responsibility to protect Iraqi prisoners. Iran is still obstructing the ICRC in discharging its tasks in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

There are tens of thousands of Iraqi POW's who are not protected in accordance with the Geneva conventions, including 20,000 whose fates are unknown and who are not registered to the committee. They have disappeared and their whereabouts are unknown. The Iraqi POW's in Iran are still suffering from physical and psychological pressures to force them to change their ideologies. Several of them were forced to fight along with the Iranian Army against their country, Iraq. Moreover, several POW's were killed while they were tied with ropes after they were arrested on the battlefronts. Iran also committed other crimes, such as pushing children into the crematorium of war. Iran also has carried out acts of terrorism and kidnapped hostages on a large-scale in order to blackmail states.

Out of our desire to emphasize facts and in reply to the campaign regarding Iraq's use of chemical weapons, we would like to reiterate that Iran has used chemical weapons on the battlefronts several times. It has also used this weapon inside cities. At the beginning of the war, Iran also used the CS [not further expanded] gas against our forces in the city of Mohammerah [Khorramshahr] and on the southern and northern fronts. Iran ignored all laws, norms, and rules that organize relations among peoples and states and violated them in an unprecedented manner. These Iranian actions are known and documented, and they were reported by international news media on a large-scale.

These actions were also discussed at the United Nations, confirmed by Red Cross reports, and conveyed to you through several messages. However, we did not find a quick and swift response from you to expose these barbaric and aggressive actions, and to criticize them with the same response and enthusiasm you showed regarding your response to the desires of a barbaric regime that basically shows indifference to the organization of which you are the secretary general.

When you made your statement you knew that Iran, despite the binding UN Security Council Resolution 598 which was issued in 1987, has continued the war and

aggression against Iraq, shelled Kuwait with missiles, and violated all rules of international law, which is based on respect for sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs. Following your recent call on the two countries to hold negotiations on the implementation of Resolution 598, Iran carried out a new invasion of Iraqi territory and occupied another Iraqi city and territory, despite and before the eyes of the UN Security Council. I informed you of all these facts through documented messages.

The world news media have also confirmed and published these facts. Despite all this we find that Your Excellency ignores the Iranian invasion of our country, aggressions against the Arab states, all of Iran's flagrant violations of international law, and its disdain for the organization you represent, as well as its resolutions. You also focus on one side of the conflict just as Iran wants.

Since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, I have sent you 10 messages in which I informed you of Iran's shelling of the cities of Baghdad and Basrah, and other Iraqi cities with missiles and artillery. I have also informed you of the number of innocent civilians, women and children, who fell as victims of the brutal Iranian shelling. But you did not raise a finger or denounce these acts. Moreover, not a single state from those making distorted statements pointed to the cities war until Tehran was attacked in reply to shelling Baghdad with missiles, which continued for several months, and in reply to the shelling which took place on 29 February. This, as if shelling Basrah with artillery and Baghdad with missiles is an ordinary thing, and only the shelling of Tehran is considered the cities war. All of these facts cast a shadow on your stand and the stands of some other states.

We would like to ask: Is Iran, whose claims you believe and whose demands you meet, ready to honor the clauses of the Charter, all the provisions of international law, and all international accords? If it is ready, we are ready to sit together under UN auspices to announce our abidance by them all and to implement them all indiscriminately.

If you are concerned about the humanitarian international law and international accords, are you not concerned about the Third Geneva Convention regarding safeguarding POW's, as well as the fate of tens of thousands of Iraqi prisoners?

We call on you to immediately send a mission to investigate the situation of the Iraqi prisoners in Iran and to inquire into the fate of 20,000 of them whose names have not been registered by the ICRC since their capture several years ago, contrary to the 1949 Geneva Convention. We call on you to inquire into the fate of another 7,000 prisoners registered by the ICRC who disappeared, and about whom the ICRC knows nothing. The mission should also investigate the atrocities being committed against the Iraqi POW's, such as killing, torture, brainwashing, and being forced to change their beliefs. These are facts confirmed and proven by ICRC reports.

On the other hand, 9 months have passed since the issuance of the binding UN Security Council Resolution 598, which was accepted by Iraq; Iran has yet to officially and conclusively announce its acceptance of it. Nevertheless, the General Secretariat and some UN Security Council members remain silent about this clear fact and deal with Iran's tricks and maneuvers. Moreover, some of them directly or indirectly resort to changing the UN Security Council resolution itself; they change its crux to satisfy the Iranian regime's whims and to encourage this barbaric criminal regime to disregard the international charter, law, and principles of dealings among states, in order to achieve narrow, transient interests which do not serve the issue of security and peace in the world.

Do you not see that this conduct encourages states not to respect the organization you represent and to violate the Charter and international law as long as the Iranian regime, which is one of the regimes most involved in such violations, receives such care and interest on your part and on the part of the UN Security Council members.

I affirm to you once again, Your Excellency the secretary general, that the Iraqi people, who made great contributions toward mankind's civilization and the entrenchment of human value; who for 8 years have been heroically and gloriously defending their security, sovereignty, and dignity; and who have offered precious human sacrifices against a savage regime which sends to the battlefields, in every invasion, hundreds of thousands of barbarians intent on killing and destruction; these people will not stand with arms folded and allow those barbarians to occupy their land and enslave them. Therefore, in their legitimate, moral, and internationally approved self-defense, our people are determined to use all available abilities and means against the criminal invaders.

The basis of the UN Charter, international law, and international accords is to safeguard countries' sovereignty, territorial safety, and peoples' right to a free, honorable life. The United Nations and the international community have no right to give privileges to a regime deliberately and insolently violating the UN Charter, international law, and international accords, and which threatens the sovereignty and security of a free people.

We believe that all just people in the world fully realize that the full responsibility for the deterioration of the situation and exacerbation of its dangers is shouldered by some of the UN Security Council members. These members are still reluctant to shoulder their responsibilities in accordance with the Charter by announcing basic facts, drawing correct conclusions, and adopting just measures against the aggressor Iranian regime, which

insists on the war and the continuation of killing and destruction. Therefore, these Security Council members are reluctant to act in a manner that will lead to ending the war and achieving a comprehensive, durable peace.

I hope Your Excellency will distribute this letter as a Security Council document. Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Baghdad, 28 March 1988

'Aziz Returns; PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives

JN252030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Bagdhad, 25 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returend here this evening after participating in the 17th conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which concluded earlier today.

In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz said the conference adopted an important resolution expressing appreciation for Iraq's acceptance of peaceful initiatives, including the resolutions of the Kuwait Islamic summit conference calling for a cease-fire, the exchang of POW's, and the withdrawal to internationally recognized borders.

He added that the resolution adopted by the conference supports UN Security Council Resolution 598 and its implementation in accordance with the sequence of its articles, as well as urging the UN Security Council to adopt the required measures against Iran, given that it is the party that did not abide by the resolution.

The foreign minister referred to the conference's strong support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupeid territories and their struggle for their land and legitimate rights. He described the conference as successful, during which all current vital issues of interest to the Islamic states and the ICO member states were discussed.

PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali arrived on the same plane on a visit to Iraq that will last several days. In a statement to INA, Al-Dali said he will hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minsiter and foreign minister, on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in all fields.

He praised Iraq's response to UN Security Council Resolution 598. He called on Iran to respond to this resolution, which represents the international will.

He described the resolutions of the Islamic foreign ministers conference as successful and expressing the issues which concern Arabs and Muslims.

PDRY's Al-Dali Meets With PLO's 'Arafat

JN261101 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met here at a late hour last night with PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, now on a visit to Baghdad. A Palestinian source said that 'Arafat and Al-Dali affirmed the need to end the Iraq-Iran war and to implement Security Council Resolution No 598.

During the meeting, they discussed the developments in the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the Arab and international political movements vis-a-vis the Arab-Zionist conflict, and the results of the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting, which ended in Amman yesterday.

Talks With President

JN261902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who conveyed to the president a verbal message from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

The talks dealt with fraternal Iraq-PDRY relations and the need to develop them in all areas. They also discussed the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq and the required Arab stands needed to confront this malicious aggression, stands that should be in line with the Amman summit resolutions, in order to establish a comprehensive peace and bring security and stability to the region.

The talks also centered on the Arab situation and the need to develop ties of cooperation among Arab states, irrespective of the nature of their regimes and on the basis of solidarity, mutual respect, noninterference in other state's internal affairs, and free and creative reaction.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the PDRY ambassador to Baghdad.

Comments on Talks

JN262142 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)—PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali has described Iraq-PDRY relations as deep and stemming from the spirit of Arab fraternity.

In a statement to INA, he said: I had the honor today to meet with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. During the meeting, I conveyed a verbal message to the president from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on developing and enhancing bilateral relations.

The PDRY minister added that the objective of his visit to Iraq is to enhance bilateral relations. He affirmed the existence of a mutual desire to attain this objective. He also renewed the PDRY's support for UN Security Council Resolution 598, paid tribute to Iraq's positive stands toward this resolution, and called on Iran to respond positively to the resolution, which represents the international community's will and expresses an international consensus.

Al-Dali added that he will also hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on ways to develop bilateral relations and bring about new phases of enhancement of these relations in all spheres. He said that during the visit he will also review with these officials the means to enhance Arab solidarity in the face of the imminent dangers facing the Arab nation. He indicated that he will also sign the executive program of Iraq-PDRY cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation.

Received by 'Aziz 27 Mar

JN271453 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali here this morning. During the meeting they discussed fraternal relations and ways to promote them in all areas.

'Aziz and Al-Dali also reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the Iranian regime's refusal to end the war by implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 in the proper sequence of its provisions. They discussed the uprising in the occupied territories and ways to bolster it on both the Arab and international levels. They also stressed the two countries' support for the Palestinian people's struggle and uprising under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to regain their legitimate national rights and establish their independent state.

The two ministers reviewed topics of the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council scheduled to be held in Tunis next Thursday. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,103

JN291812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,103 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued to carry out their combat activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force flew 202 combat missions to deliver blows to the enemy troops in the operations sectors, inflicting on them further new losses in scoundrels, weapons, and equipment. Additionally, our planes carried out the following heroic missions over the Arabian Gulf waters and deep inside Iranian territory:

a. Last night, our planes launched two successful air raids against two very large maritime targets, scoring two accurate and effective hits.

b. At 1323 [1023 GMT] today, our planes delivered a destructive strike to the city of Hamadan.

c. At the same time, other numbers of our planes were launching a destructive raid against the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

d. At 1430 today, our planes swooped down on one enemy Hawk surface-to-air missile battery in the northern operations sector and pounded it.

e. At 1435 today, our planes raided the oil installations on Sheykh Sho'eyb Island [Lavan Island] tearing their targets apart and setting them ablaze.

f. At 1525 today, our planes delivered a destructive strike to the city of Salehi.

g. At 1532, our planes raided economic installations in the city of Khorramabad, scoring a destructive hit. Having carried out all of these tasks, all of our planes returned safely and victorious to base in God's care.

2. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships flew 120 combat sorties today, inflicting on the aggressors significant losses in personnel, weapons, equipment and vehicles. Having carried out these missions, they all returned with their planes safely to base, God be praised.

3. Fifty-three scoundrels were killed, others were wounded, and one vehicle and one tubular rocket launcher were burned and destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Three enemy personnel were killed, two infantry positions, five observation posts, and one machinegun were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Our units operating in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah spotted an enemy drone. They engaged the drone and downed it. Elsewhere in the same sector, one infantry position was destroyed and one ammunition dump blown up.

6. Two machineguns were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. One enemy soldier was killed and two heavy machineguns and two infantry positions were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. Eight enemy boats tried to approach the Al-'Amiq port last night. The courageous port force confronted them and managed to sink one of them, while the remaining boats fled the scene.

9. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

10. The criminal enemy used long-range artillery last night and today to shell residential quarters in the cities of Basra, Al-Qurnah, and Khanaqin. The enemy shelling martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women and children. The shelling also damaged a number of houses and other civilian property. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 March 1988

Attack in Faqqeh Area Denied

JN291901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—An authorized Iraqi source has denied Iranian allegations to the effect that an Iraqi attack took place in the Faqqeh area in the IV Army sector.

In a statement to INA today, the source siad that no clashes or engagements between the Iraqi and Iranian forces took place in this area. The source added that the Iranian allegations represent no more than an attempt to draw attention away from the losses being sustained by the Iranian regime at the hands of Iranian national opposition forces; these forces are continuing their operations deep inside Iranian territory, inflicting on this regime grave losses in forces, personnel, and equipment.

Aircraft Downings Denied

JN291915 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi aircraft were downed today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that all of our aircraft that carried out their duties deep inside Iranian territory, over the Arabian Gulf waters, and over the sectors of operations safely returned to base. The spokesman said that the Iranian rulers are consoling themselves with such cheap lies, which no one believes anymore.

Helicopter Loss Denied

JN300742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations on downing an Iraqi helicopter. The spokesman said no Iraqi helicopters were downed and that all Iraqi helicopter gunships carried out their missions and returned safely to base.

Cypriot Tanker Attacked

NC300950 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 0930 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In the Persian Gulf today, Iraqi planes attacked the Cypriot tanker "Anax" which was carrying Iranian oil. Fire broke out on the 259,449-ton tanker as a result of the attack. No casualties have been reported.

Missile Strikes on Esfahan

JN300934 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0919 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,104 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the following missile strikes were dealt to the city of Esfahan:

1. At 0845 [0545 GMT] today, the 51st strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out on the city of Esfahan.

2. At the same time, the 52d strike with Al-Husayn missiles was also carried out on the city of Esfahan.

3. At the same time, the 53d strike was launched at the city of Esfahan.

Glory to you, O men in the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. Victory will continue to be on the side of strong and lofty Iraq. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 March 1988

Iran Shells Al-Zubayr

JN301016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 30 Mar (INA)—Two children were martyred in the city of Al-Zubayr, Al-Basrah Governorate, last night as a result of the Iranian shelling of residential areas with long-range artillery and launchers.

An INA correspondent in the city said two children, 8-year-old 'Amir 'Awdah and 9-year-old Tha'ir 'Awdah, were martyred by the splinters of the Iranian shelling, while 12-year-old Mithaq Ahmad was martyred a short time after them.

The correspondent added that several other citizens were martyred and wounded, including women and children, and that some houses and shops were demolished as a result of the Iranian shelling.

Peres on Territories Closure, Land Day Events
TA291840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has dismissed criticism from abroad of the army's decision to close off the territories to the media. Interviewed by our reporter Le'a Zinder, Peres stressed that the closure is temporary and is to forestall trouble during a very delicate period:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think this is a timely and a transitional measure. I do not believe that the intention is to close the territories permanently. We are going to have apparently 3 tense days, and the intention is really to reduce as much as we can the tension in those particular places.

[Zinder] Some overseas countries, including the United States and Egypt, have reacted quite sharply to the closing of the territories. How do you respond to them and to their assertion that this is a threat to Israeli democracy?

[Peres] We have declared time and again that we do not intend to close the areas permanently or for any length of time. But then at the same token we have said that on occasion and for a limited time we may have to do it, and we do it.

[Zinder] Mr Peres, there are only hours left before the beginning of Land Day. Are you apprehensive?

[Peres] I hope not. There are simply too much in the air and the problem is that a very small group of people can really cause troubles.[sentence as heard] My own impression is that the majority of the people would like—while expressing their feelings, which is normal—to avoid clashes which may bring suffering to many people. [end recording]

Sharon: Rabin Territories Policy 'Total Failure'
TA291234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning to Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is on the telephone.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Golan] For a long time you have been claiming that you have your own solutions to the unrest in the territories. My first question is the following: Is the 3-day blockade on the territories a move in the right direction, in your view?

[Sharon] The problem is not any single day with this or that name. Each day there is Land Day in some place or other. The time has come to return to Hebrew Land Days of peace and security throughout the country. The time has come to stop planning our lives according to the timetable of the Arab rioters, but according to a Jewish calendar, according to an Israeli schedule of law and order.

[Golan] What would you have done if you were defense minister now? Would you order the soldiers to fire instead of beating?

[Sharon] I would like to conclude my remarks: I would say that I am sick and tired of hearing about this or that day which the Palestinians have declared and for which we are preparing. The time has finally come for them to prepare for dates we will decide on, and according to our timetable. What has happened to us? The entire State of Israel is planning its life according to some timetable decided on by Arab rioters. I would like first of all to state that we should not have come to this. The initiative must be returned to us in all fields: security, immigration, settlement.

What has happened to us? The State of Israel, with its tremendous achievements in strengthening its security and morale, is holding its breath in anticipation of this coming Wednesday. If steps should be taken, then go ahead and take them, but quietly. Stop making announcements and stop scaring everybody. We need a little self-respect and a little self-discipline. There are solutions to all the problems.

Now, as for the answers themselves, for over 2 years I have presented my proposals to the Inner Cabinet, and I have repeatedly stressed the points over the past 4 months. I know how to deal with this problem. To my regret, most of my proposals were rejected without being tested. Those that were accepted—for example, banning the Al-Shabibah, which is only one of the organizations that should be banned; there are many others still operating—were implemented very late.

[Golan] Minister Sharon, your criticism is about the government's handling of the situation. In an interview at midday yesterday, you refused to name people responsible for the situation which we have needlessly reached. My question is: Do you support the criticism Likud members and ministers are leveling against Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin personally over this issue?

[Sharon] I am not concerned about individual personalities. I think we have admirable soldiers, excellent policemen, and very good border policemen. On the other hand, I am surprised at the remarks Mr Rabin makes when he does not succeed in carrying out the task imposed on him.

[Golan] What, for instance?

[Sharon] Yesterday I heard him talking about 6 years in Lebanon. I would like to say to Mr Rabin: Mr Rabin has been in the Defense Ministry for 3 and 1/2 years, and I

have been out of the Defense Ministry for over 5 years. Therefore, when referring to the current terrorism in Lebanon, he should direct the complaints at himself. The terrorism from Lebanon is not a result of the war in Lebanon.

Let us imagine only for a moment what would have happened if, in addition to what is already taking place internally—a situation which does have a solution, and one much better than that being currently provided—there would also have been a PLO base with hundreds of cannons and katyushas in southern Lebanon. He should therefore direct his complaints at himself. He has also been a total failure in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. He is the address, he has direct and not indirect responsibility; therefore there is no need in this instance for a Kahan-like commission.

[Golan] Minister Sharon, do you believe Defense Minister Rabin should be replaced? Would you want to replace him now?

[Sharon] I do not think he should be replaced. I am not in favor of early elections; I am not in favor of dismantling the government. I am in favor of the present government continuing; I am in favor of as much unity as possible. A maximum effort must be made on this. I do not regard the defense minister as the commander of the army. Our constitution clearly states that the government is the commander of the army. Therefore I called on the prime minister many times to use all his powers so that all the necessary steps would be taken to restore order.

[Golan] Did Mr Shamir do this?

[Sharon] I do not know what Mr Shamir does when I am not present. I heard the prime minister and hope he is not mistaken in his evaluation that Israel's deterrent capability has not been weakened. My opinion is different. In my view, the central problem facing us at present is how to prevent the deteriorating situation from leading to a surprise all-out Arab offensive. Only renewed Israeli deterrence vis-a-vis an Arab offensive can have any chance of developing into peace some day.

[Golan] Minister Sharon, I understand from your remarks that you are leveling criticism at the prime minister as well. Is this correct?

[Sharon] I have no criticism on a personal level. I am speaking as a member of the Cabinet, as somebody who thoroughly knows the issues, as somebody who believes he is one of those with solutions to the existing problems. I am expressing my genuine concern here. This is not a personal matter. I am expressing a real concern about a very grave situation in which we find ourselves. We should not have reached this situation, and there is a chance to extricate ourselves, and this must be done as quickly as possible.

[Golan] I suppose you do not want to expand here on the measures you would have taken this morning to extricate us from the situation you are describing here?

[Sharon] I went into detail in the Inner Cabinet dozens of times over a very long period. I am prepared to repeat these things in the Inner Cabinet. I know there are answers to these situations, and I think I know how to deal with this problem.

[Golan] Minister Sharon, thank you very much. Good morning.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Rabin Comments on Land Day, Sharon Remarks

TA291242 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arye Golan—live]

[Golan] Good afternoon, Mr Minister.

[Rabin] Good afternoon.

[Golan] You have just returned from a tour of Hebron.

[Rabin] That is correct.

[Golan] What did you see there?

[Rabin] The general picture, of course, is that the measures first implemented today in pursuance of our ongoing goals will hopefully result in further tranquillity in the territories, and will strengthen the Civilian Administration.

[Golan] Why was it necessary to actually close the territories for 3 days? Would other means have been insufficient at this stage?

[Rabin] Look, some people have asked us why we are not taking the initiative. And then other people have even criticized us for failing to take the initiative. Well, first of all it would be worthwhile remembering that the initiative to use violence came from the locals. In reaction to this initiative we have employed a broad range of measures, part of which came about in reaction to the activity of the locals, while part was our own initiative. These measures take the form of the military forces and their activity, imprisonment and detentions which are by and large initiated by us, as well as administrative and economic steps.

These administrative measures have been stepped up as of this morning for a duration of 3 days in a bid to guarantee better control of the area. They are meant to send a message and a warning for the future. The

message is that we have in store measures that can hurt, limit freedom of movement, and make many of the locals rethink whether or not they ought to pursue this type of activity.

[Golan] Can this closure continue for more than 3 days?

[Rabin] Right now the decision is to apply it for 3 days. I have always maintained that it is necessary to direct our activity toward confronting trends of which we are aware and preempt them.

[Golan] Mr Defense Minister, this morning Minister Ari'el Sharon leveled very harsh criticism over your handling of the situation in the territories. He actually said quite explicitly that insofar as this issue is concerned, you have failed.

[Rabin] We live in a democratic state, and everyone may express his own views. Let me remind everyone that we are talking about a certain type of activity in the territories the like of which we have never experienced before. I am convinced that the IDF and the other security forces are acting as warranted. Some people seek swift and speedy solutions that would resolve everything in one blow. Well, we have already witnessed the outcome of such methods when the IDF was activated in accordance with such a principle. We have been licking our wounds since that time, while at the same time the problem itself has not been resolved.

[Golan] I understand you are referring to the Lebanon war?

[Rabin] You read me well enough. I would therefore highly recommend that we refrain from indulging in illusions, and stop believing in magic formulas which have a dear and painful price in addition to being ineffective and impractical.

[Golan] But Minister Sharon argues that he has been raising very detailed proposals, bringing many ideas, and making concrete suggestions in the Inner Cabinet on ways to better handle the situation in the territories. Perhaps it would be wise to consider some of them?

[Rabin] Mr Sharon would be well advised to tell us exactly what they are. I presume that if these suggestions were so good, he would undoubtedly have managed to convince the Inner Cabinet of their value. I don't want to go into details, but let me give you one example: He mentioned the issue of the Al-Shabibah. Well, first of all, clamping down on one organization cannot solve the whole problem. It is generally true that no single operation can totally eliminate a problem.

But let me give you an example: The Al-Shabibah Movement has existed for a decade; it was not invented in the last 3 and 1/2 years. About a year ago—and I was already defense minister—the security forces demanded its closure. Without laying blame on any justice minister, because I believe the judicial system carried out the finest examination, but only 6 weeks ago was a way found to shut down that organization—which the judicial system did.

I would not like anyone to delude himself and think that there is one move, one act that could entirely solve the problem. I believe that the whole range of methods we have implemented will yield the desired result, namely quiet. We have been faced with prolonged confrontations before, and the current one is also rather protracted. Just as we overcame in the past, so will we overcome now as well.

[Golan] Mr Defense Minister, we have heard that the foreign reporters in Israel are angry at your decision to ban the media from the territories.

[Rabin] Then I can see that I am doing very well. I am the target of criticism from the extreme left, from the extreme right—including from Inner Cabinet ministers—and from the foreign press. We are taking the actions warranted by the situation. The defense establishment, the IDF, and the various other defense elements are operating hand-in-hand; we all agree on what needs to be done. I am sure we are taking all necessary actions.

[Golan] But we saw that although there was no media coverage today and the territories are closed off, nevertheless the disturbances continued in Tulkarm. There are seven casualties. It seems that what happened yesterday is repeating itself today.

[Rabin] So far, in all of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza there has been only one incident in one place. It is only one place. Perhaps other incidents will also occur, but one should bear in mind that it is presumptuous to believe that everything will just come to a standstill as of this morning. At the same time, the product of all the measures as I described them earlier in this interview in all three areas—namely, the use of the Army; detentions and imprisonment; and administrative and economic measures—will, together, create a state of affairs that will result in calm.

[Golan] But when will this happen, Mr Defense Minister?

[Rabin] I can remember a war that was launched at our initiative, with a firm statement and pledge that it would end within 72 hours, but which has been going on for nearly 6 years now.

[Golan] Are you saying that this business will also take 6 years?

[Rabin] No, no. I promise you here it will be a much, much shorter affair.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Sharon Criticizes Shamir in Inner Cabinet

TA301245 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon is accusing Prime Minister Shamir of operating according to political motives rather than national considerations. Sharon made this accusation at today's Inner Cabinet session, after Shamir rejected his request to put some of his proposals for restoring calm in the territories to a vote.

In today's session the Inner Cabinet members heard reviews about the situation in the territories, the IDF's preparations for Land Day, and about changes in the IDF's working plans in the wake of events in the territories.

Shamir Comments on Upcoming Shultz Visit

TA291306 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that it was the U.S. secretary of state who initiated his second trip to the region. He will therefore have to present new ideas. I hope, said Shamir, that he will not discuss talks with PLO members with us.

'Senior' Official Issues 'Warning' to Shultz

TA301214 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] "If George Shultz presses too hard, the prime minister will be obliged to give him a completely negative answer regarding his initiative." This warning, issued yesterday by a senior official of the Prime Minister's Office in an interview with DAVAR, was made in connection with the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East next week and in the context of the mounting tension between him and Yitzhaq Shamir.

The official's remarks referred to the reports that during the secretary's current visit—his third within 1 month—he will demand a clear and unevasive answer from the prime minister. The official further said that "so far, Yitzhaq Shamir has not been happy with the idea of giving Shultz a negative reply, but if the U.S. secretary of state insists on a clear answer, there will be no alternative but to say 'no'."

The tension between the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state grew last night with the reports from Washington saying that George Shultz and his aides are not satisfied with the way Yitzhaq Shamir and his entourage presented their visit to Washington as if it had been a complete success. [passage omitted]

Uprising Pamphlet Authors Still at Large

TA291510 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Mar 88 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Yesterday it transpired that Minister Bar-Lev was mistaken when he stated that the people who wrote the Unified National Command of the Uprising's Pamphlet No 11 had been caught.

The Police Affairs Ministry yesterday explained that the statement was the result of a mistake. The police affairs minister was mistakenly told a short time before his meeting with correspondents in Bethlehem that the people suspected of writing the pamphlet had been caught. Prior to this explanation by the Police Affairs Ministry, a security source had already noted that none of the writers or those who distributed the pamphlet had been caught so far.

More on Unrest, Related Indicents in Territories

Qabatiyah, Janin Curfew

TA291447 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on Qabatiyah and the Janin Refugee Camp in Samaria. Six other places in Judaea and Samaria are still under curfew. A blockade continues in eight other areas, our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

Galilee Bus Bombed

TA291522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown this afternoon at a bus in the village of Dabburiya in the foothills of Mt Tavor. Nobody was injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bus, belonging to the Lower Galilee Regional Council, was taking members of the No'ar Haoved Vehalomed youth movement from Mt Tavor to Tiberias. The chairman of the Lower Galilee Regional Council stressed that all tours in the region are continuing as planned.

IDF Urges 'Minimum Casualties'

TA291537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The chief of staff says there is no connection between the quite large number of those recently killed in the territories and the fact that there is relative calm. He said that what must be done now is to stabilize the existing calm. The closing of the territories is a move in that direction.

In a talk with our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe during a tour in Hebron, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said the IDF is making a serious effort to have minimum casualties, and in fact there have been very few fatalities in the Gaza Strip recently.

Gaza Strip Calm

TA291702 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Last night and early this morning 800 people from the Gaza Strip came from Israel to the Erez roadblock; some of them slept outside. Civilian Administration workers today gave them special permits and took them to their homes.

The IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Moti Amir that several people who tried to violate the curfew today were detained, and that otherwise there was relative calm in the Gaza Strip today. Senior officers in the Gaza Strip believe that the moves taken by the IDF prevented any opportunity to organize disturbances.

IDF Summarizes Incidents

TA291749 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] This evening the IDF spokesman issued a statement summing up today's incidents in the territories: At 0900 the road to Zayta, in the Tulkarm district, was blocked. An IDF force that arrived at the area was attacked and forced to open fire. Five rioters were slightly wounded by the shots and three others by tear gas.

During the day there were disturbances in the Tulkarm Refugee Camp. The windshield of an Israeli car was smashed this afternoon near the settlement of Hadar Betar. In the Gaza Strip there were several stone throwing incidents but no injuries.

Umm al-Fahm Demonstration

TA291836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] There was a large demonstration at Umm al-Fahm on the eve of Land Day. Many police and border police were stationed at the entrance to the town and on the main road, while a police helicopter hovered above. There were calls at the demonstration for solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories, a condemnation of Israel's occupation of the areas, and support for the PLO.

3 Dead, 12 Injured in Zaytah

TA300810 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] In a clash with IDF soldiers in the village of Zayta, situated north of Tulkarm near the Green Line, 3 youths were killed and about 12 injured; some of the injuries were caused by tear gas. The names of the dead are: 30-year-old Musa 'Azmi, 'Ayyad 'Azmi, and Ma'aruf Nu'aman. An IDF force was attacked by stones and Molotov cocktails and was forced to open fire.

A resident of the Balatah Refugee Camp, 22-year-old Zayd Sharaya, was brought to the Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus after being severely beaten with a club. A 13-year-old girl from Nabulus, Ha'ifa Abu-Samud, was hospitalized with a bullet wound in her leg. In the Duhayshah Refugee Camp near Bethlehem, a youth was shot in the eye by a rubber bullet.

Arrests continued yesterday throughout the West Bank, and the number of detainees is currently estimated at 4,000.

Demonstrations, Strikes Mark Land Day 30 Mar

Galilee Incidents

TA300607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] On the eve of Land Day, there were four incidents in the Galilee overnight. Two petrol bombs were thrown at an Egged bus near kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amaqim. There were no injuries. A car was stoned at the village of Deir al-Asad. Again, no injuries.

At the Kabri junction in the Western Galilee, tires were burned; and on the Ma'ale Gilboa' road a roadblock of stones was erected. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 30 March adds: "Stone barriers were erected on the Ma'ale Gilboa' road, in the village of Dabburiya, in Kafr Yasif, and in the settlement of Bayt Zarzir near Nahalal."]

Press Agency Closed

TA300855 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Summary] Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the North that relative quiet has prevailed in Arab villages in the Galilee for the past few hours, after several serious disturbances during the night in which "three inhabitants of the village of Majd al-Kurum tried to set fire to an Egged Company bus that was traveling from Zefat to Haifa," while elsewhere in the area "PLO flags were hoisted and stone barriers were set up." [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700

GMT on 30 March adds that "thousands of Arab workers from locations in the Galilee and the Triangle reported for work this morning."]

Our correspondent Shim'on Elqabetz reports from the South that the police commander of the Negev District "has banned Bedouin in the town of Rahat from holding today's scheduled procession to mark Land Day events in the Negev." Nevertheless, a large rally will be held in the center of the town, "and hundreds of police and Border Policemen are stationed around the town and along main highways." Hasin al-Ubra, considered the leader of the local youth, has been arrested and "charged with inciting and persuading youngsters to thrown stones at Israeli vehicles." His arrest "has had a deterrent effect on many residents, and everybody hopes to have a quiet day today."

Our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that over the last few hours, "several tires were set on fire and PLO flags were hoisted" in East Jerusalem. A short time ago, "a suspected agitator was arrested near Herod's Gate." Tires were set on fire and stones thrown at passing cars near Moshav Nir Zevi on the coastal plain, but there were no casualties. Tires were also set on fire on the southern outskirts of Ashqelon this morning.

Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that "the curfew on the Gaza Strip may be lifted today for a fixed period of time to allow local inhabitants to stock up on food."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 30 March adds that "a wooden bridge along the Jerusalem railroad was set on fire in the Battir area near Bayt Safafa. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that Border Policemen extinguished the fire and the bridge was not damaged." National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem has announced that "an order has been received to close down the Palestinian press agency owned by Raymonda al-Tawil for 6 months. Policemen are on their way to close the agency in East Jerusalem."]

1 Killed Near Ramallah

TA300913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab woman was killed and three local inhabitants were injured in a riot in the Ramallah area. An IDF soldier received a head injury after being hit in the head with a pickaxe. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Arabs attacked IDF soldiers with stones and iron bars. The soldiers tried to disperse the rioters with tear gas, but finally opened fire on them. The woman who was killed was standing next to the man who attacked the soldier with a pickaxe.

More Ramallah Incidents

TA301033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] A few dozen youngsters have been rioting in the Al-Am'ari Refugee Camp near Ramallah. They set tires on fire near an Army roadblock at the entrance to the camp, and when soldiers entered the camp in order to disperse them they started throwing stones. The soldiers fired a few tear gas canisters at them, but they continued throwing stones.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that soldiers dispersed some 30 youngsters who threw stones at our forces in the village of Silwad. When the soldiers arrived, the youngsters locked themselves in their houses. A resident of Baytuniya was brought to Ramallah Hospital with a chest wound. The IDF is looking into how he was wounded.

No 'Extraordinary' Events

TA301154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] So far there have been no extraordinary disturbances in Israeli Arab locations to mark Land Day. In several places, public figures rallied together to maintain order.

A quiet demonstration was held in Kafr Kanna in the Galilee, and policemen went to great lengths not to enter the village. The rally that was scheduled to be held in Baqa al-Gharbiyya in the Triangle was called off for fear of riots. The head of the local council toured the streets to make sure that there were no riots.

Local authorities in Nazareth and Kafr Kama organized guard patrols to maintain order and prevent shops from opening. PLO flags were hoisted in several places, but were subsequently removed. The Bedouin village of (Arab al-Shibli) on the slopes of Mount Tavor is not on strike today. Many Arab workers spent the night in hotels in Tiberias in order to show up for work today as usual.

Here are some of the few incidents registered: Three buses were pelted with stones in Nazareth, and firebombs were thrown yesterday at a bus near Qiryat Tiv'on. Three youngsters and a boy were arrested in connection with the latter incident, and it is believed this group is connected with the firebomb thrown at an Egged Company bus about a month ago.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 30 March adds that "Land Day is hardly felt in Lod, Ramla, and Yafo. All shops and schools in Ramla and Lod are open as usual."]

'Full' Strike in Jerusalem

TA301159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] There is a full commercial strike in East Jerusalem, along with several disturbances. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that several youngsters were arrested after a helicopter assisted in pursuing them. They had taken part in a demonstration in Shu'fat, where PLO flags were hoisted and side streets were blocked. Stones were thrown at policemen in 'Isawiyah, but nobody was hurt. PLO flags were hoisted in several villages near Jerusalem. Most residents in the area are avoiding going outdoors.

Syrian Demonstration in Golan

TA301348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Hundreds of people demonstrated on the Syrian side of the cease-fire line on the Golan Heights. They shouted slogans of solidarity with Arabs both in Israel and the territories on Land Day. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Syrian Army trucks brought the demonstrators to the site.

On the Israeli side, several dozen Druze listened to the Syrian demonstrators and then dispersed. There is a partial strike today in Druze villages in the Golan Heights.

King Returns From Visits to Pakistan, Oman
JN262037 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Excerpt] His majesty the king, Her Majesty Queen Nur, and the accompanying delegation returned home this evening following a state visit to Pakistan and a visit to Oman. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Receives USSR's Sytenko 27 Mar
JN271439 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 27 Mar (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, at the Royal Court today. His majesty briefed Sytenko on the results of talks with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on the Afghan issue. Sytenko conveyed to his majesty the Soviet leadership's appreciation for the role his majesty played in this regard.

Al-Rifa'i Reshuffles Government Officials
JN281313 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Mar 88 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—In a meeting under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i yesterday, the Council of Ministers decided to carry out reshuffles among secretary generals and directors.

These included the appointment of Eng Mu'tazz al-Bilbisi as secretary general of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation; the appointment of Mahmud al-Talhuni as secretary general of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications by transferring him from the post of secretary general of the Water Authority; ending the appointment of Dr 'Abdallah al-Jazi as secretary general of Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and reappointing him as director general of the Al-Hijazi Railway; the appointment of Ghazi al-Rifa'i as director general of the Post and Postal Saving Corporation; the appointment of Dr Muhammad Khayr Mamsir, a professor at the University of Jordan, as secretary general of the Ministry of Youth; the appointment of Muhammad Jamil Abu al-Tayyib, secretary general of the Ministry of Youth, as director general of the Public Transportation Corporation; and the appointment of Haydar Mahmud as adviser at the Prime Ministry.

The Council of Ministers also decided to place Ibrahim Mahadin, the director general of the Public Transportation Corporation, on the government's Retirement Fund; and to transfer Eng Mansur ibn Tarif, secretary general of the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, to provisional retirement.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that a decree will be issued appointing Dr Muhammad Bani Hani as secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority.

In another development, the Council of Ministers approved in its session yesterday the law of budget obligations of the ministries and the state and public departments and institutions. The Council also approved the health insurance fund budget for the current year and the kidney disease fund. It also approved an amended law on the organization of the Information Ministry.

Dudin Issues Statement on Land Day Anniversary
JN291553 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Amman, 29 Mar (PETRA)—Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin has issued the following statement on the anniversary of Land Day:

Land Day is the day of the popular Palestinian uprising, which erupted on 30 March 1976 in the form of general strikes and popular demonstrations in all Arab cities, villages, and communities in the Palestinain territories occupied in 1948. The uprising was a protest against Zionist repression, the policy of discrimination, and the seizure of land carried out by the Israeli authorities against the Arab Palestinian people, who have been steadfast on their national soil since 1948.

The direct cause of Land Day was the Israeli authorities' seizure of approximately 21,000 dunums of land in a number of Arab villages in central Galilee, including 'Arrabam Sakhnin, Dayr Hanna, and 'Arab al-Sawa'id on 29 February 1976 to establish more Zionist settlements within the framework of a scheme to Judaize the Galilee.

Although the leaders of the movement in defense of what is left of Palestinian territory affirmed to the Israeli authorities that the Arab general strike would be peaceful and within the framework of democracy, about which Israeli boasts, these authorities rejected this request and continued their repression and terrorism against the Palestinians. Martyrs and wounded fell to redeem Arab territory.

The story of the Arab Palestinian people's conflict with the Zionist movement is the story of conflict over the land. The Palestinian people's steadfastness on their land with honor, heroism, and sacrifice played an effective role in foiling Israel's schemes on the Arab lands in the Galilee and Triangle. The growth of the Arab population in these areas constituted a stumbling block to the schemes of uprooting and Judaization.

Land Day has added an honorable and qualitative new struggle to those of the Arab people on the Palestinain territory occupied in 1948. It has also constituted a violent jolt to Israeli settlements.

The anniversary of Land Day this year, which coincides with the popular uprising in the occupied territory with all those martyrs and wounded who fell in defense of Arab territory, will add shining new dimensions to the record of the pure Palestinian struggle.

We in Jordan, who live the tragedy of Palestine and the Palestinian people day by day, exalt our kinfolk's heroic steadfastness and support them with all that we have until our lofty people achieve their complete national rights on their national soil.

We in Jordan call on all peace-loving governments and peoples to find measures and formulas to remove the tribulation of the Palestinian people and to enable them to regain their rights and self-determination on their land.

May God have mercy on the martyrs of Land Day. God is our supporter.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives in Amman 21 Mar

JN230755 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
22 Mar 88 p 18

[Text] Amman—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee spokesman, arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan scheduled to last several days during which he will meet with senior officials. 'Abbas' talks will deal with the latest Arab developments and relations between Jordan and the PLO.

French Officials Reportedly Discussing Hostages

NC300540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] When will French hostages Fontaine, Carton, and Kauffmann be released? Adding to the information broadcast over the Voice of Lebanon yesterday, which said that secret contacts are under way among Paris, Tehran, and Beirut for the release of the French hostages, and that an Iranian envoy had arrived in Beirut and held meetings with the kidnappers, REUTER has reported that France dispatched officials to Beirut under Defense Ministry official (Alexandre Stephanie) 2 weeks ago.

The French officials have had talks with persons closely linked with the kidnappers. A source has disclosed that (Stephanie) and his team have conducted their contacts from East Beirut via certain security channels close to the kidnappers. The source has told REUTER that two Lebanese mediators residing in Paris have been participating in the talks.

Phalangist Leader Views Election, Mediation

PM251321 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Mar 88 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Phalangist Party Chairman George Sa'adah by William Dahir; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: How will the Phalangists deal with the nomination of National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un, knowing that the Liberal Party is an ally of the Phalangist Party, as they are united under one front, and the Phalangists have contributed to electing two Phalangist presidents, namely, Bashir al-Jumayyil and Amin al-Jumayyil?

Sa'adah: The relationship between the Phalangist Party and the Liberal Party is both strong and staunch. It is not a business relationship; it is aimed at serving Lebanese interests.

Dany Sham'un has declared his candidacy. And he is one of the best-known Lebanese working in politics. But the candidacy must be considered within the framework of the Lebanese Front, which makes contacts with both members and nonmembers to agree on one candidate.

Dany Sham'un's concept emanates from the principles of the National Liberal Party, which are known to everyone. The principles of the Liberal Party do not differ from those of the Phalangist Party. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: If your rivals managed to choose a strong candidate who posed a serious threat to your own candidate, would you try to hamper the presidential election? And, consequently, how would you, as the Phalangist Party, deal with a president who was your rival?

Sa'adah: We are not against a president. We are against candidates. It is known that the Phalangist Party is a democratic party that believes in democratic principles. Democracy has various forms. We must find out who our rivals are: Are they political rivals, ideological rivals, or other trends?

If the Chamber of Deputies is elected under its own will and freedom, and if the deputies manage to liberate themselves from all pressures and temptations and elect a president, even if such a president maintained an uncordial relationship with us we would support him, provided that he worked for Lebanon and Lebanon's interests. What concerns us is Lebanon's interests, not individuals.

AL-HAWADITH: There is a clear contradiction between what you say now and what you declared on Phalangists Day. You say now that you would support a president elected by the chamber, even if your relationship was not cordial. On Phalangists Day you declared that any candidate from outside the borders must remain there. Obviously you meant the Phalangists' traditional rival, that is [National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih. Would the Phalangists support him if he were elected president of the Republic?

Sa'adah: When I talked about outside the borders, I did not mean where a candidate resides geographically. I meant a candidate who imposes himself from outside the borders. And I apologize for any misinterpretation leading anyone to think that the person intended was Raymond Iddih. He was not the one originally intended in my speech. I harbor nothing but respect for the stands adopted by Raymond Iddih. There is political rivalry between us and Iddih, but it does not mean, at least to us, that we should place him in a corner—God forbid. He does not abandon Lebanese interests. That was what I meant.

In my reply to an earlier question, I said that we would support a president, not a candidate who is against us, since we would use all democratic means possible to keep that candidate away from the presidency of the Republic. But if he is elected, we would not look into his past, but rather look into his present and future. If he worked for Lebanese interests, we would support him, even if there was political rivalry between us. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Will you run for the presidency of the Republic?

Sa'adah: Absolutely not. I am serving Lebanon.

[AL-HAWADITH] He added: In view of the situation we are experiencing, I believe that it is in the interests of both the party and Lebanon that we remain in the position we are in. Thus, I believe that Lebanese interests must be safeguarded before anything else. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe there is a tendency on the part of the U.S. side to try to resolve the crisis at Lebanon's expense?

Sa'adah: Over 13 years of war, ruin, and destruction, numerous attempts have been at the domestic, regional, or international levels to reach accord. Many initiatives have also been made during this period. Meetings were held here, in Geneva, and in Lausanne. Numerous contacts have also been made, and so on. But nothing has been achieved. So how can we possibly achieve the accord sought today, in the very short period between now and the end of the presidential term, when we have failed to achieve it over a period of 13 years?

In fact, we are of the opinion that we should benefit from this situation in order to create a climate suitable for conducting the elections and making proposals that could eventually lead to the elimination of obstacles in the way of an elected president. After that there would be no objection to continuing the march toward a final accord.

As for the U.S. plan, it is appreciated. We thank all the forces trying to extricate us from our dilemma. I do not believe that a major country like the United States would embark on any business at the expense of a small country like Lebanon, which has suffered a great deal of pain. But probably the initiative proposed today is not for Lebanon alone, but for the region. We Lebanese must benefit from the situation, since we may be able to separate the Lebanese problem from that of the Middle East, thus doing our country a service. This is if we really care about preserving the interests of this country.

Why should we ask a stranger to rescue us? Why should we wait for Syrian-U.S. meetings and their results? Why do we the Lebanese not meet together, as Lebanese leaders, since we know better what our problems are and how to solve them? [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Western sources in Beirut have released information indicating that Western ambassadors have advised you of the need to initiate a dialogue with the other party. And it has been revealed that you have formed committees to draft a reconciliation plan that would be suitable as a basis for dialogue. What stage have you reached in this regard?

Sa'adah: The ambassadors did not advise us to do that. It was we who took the initiative. It is in our nature in the Phalangist Party to turn to dialogue. Everyone knows that we entered into a dialogue with the Palestinians when a crisis erupted. We also hold talks with the Syrians and make Arab tours. At the domestic level, we have held a dialogue with every party that has requested it. And today we are ready to hold dialogue with everyone. We have no problems in that regard. The committee we formed has made contacts at the level of embassies and leaderships; it is still continuing to make such contacts. Some contacts were announced and some were not, because of their secret nature. When the time is suitable to announce them, we will do so. One of the tasks assigned to the committee is to prepare a working paper containing our concepts, after which we will call for a meeting which will probably be confined to particular leaderships as a first stage. But all leaderships can then meet at another stage within a national conference. This is our wish, which some may think has more to do with imagination, on the pretext that it is not possible for all Lebanese to meet. We must do our best until the circumstances are suitable. Why was a meeting not held? It is those who hampered it who should bear the responsibility; we are not claiming victory or an initiative.

Let those calling for a dialogue take the initiative, and we will respond regardless of the source of the call. We are making contacts to test viewpoints. After that we will concentrate on drawing up a working paper taking into account viewpoints that are in agreement with ours. We will explore all views. This is what is happening now. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some of the big powers believe that Syria has a principal role to play in finding a solution in Lebanon. Is it possible to achieve a solution internally without such a role?

Sa'adah: It is not the big powers only which say that Syria has a role to play in Lebanon. We also say that Syria has a role in Lebanon. We want this role to be positive, not negative. We in the Phalangist Party held dialogues with the Syrians. I personally participated in most of these talks. Our dialogue with the Syrians was based on the fact that Syria can influence the situation in Lebanon both positively and negatively. Our role was to prompt Syria to play a positive role.

I said in many previous statements that during my last meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, 3 or 4 days before the tripartite agreement was signed, Khaddam told me: Syria will maintain an equal distance from all Lebanese factions, and it will work seriously toward putting a limit on the Lebanese tragedy. We are not asking Syria for more than that; we are asking it to maintain an equal distance from all factions and to help seriously in securing a solution to the Lebanese tragedy. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some people doubt that reforms constitute a major element in the current dialogue between the United States and the Syrians. In view of the facts available to you, how would you personally define the role of the U.S. mediator, and on whose behalf are the Americans making their shuttle contacts?

Sa'adah: The task of a go-between is known: He mediates between two rivals. As for the U.S. role with Syria, there is a general belief that such a role is not confined to the Lebanese issue alone. Numerous issues are being discussed: the Middle East problem as a whole, the Gulf

war, and so on. While such a dialogue is going on, the natural thing is for Lebanese intellectuals to play a role and to separate the Lebanese problems from other issues. In this way we can determine whether the United States is playing the role of mediator or party, and what role Syria is playing—whether the role of a mediator as well, or that of a party.

If Syria were playing the role of a go-between, it would have made its contacts directly with the presidency of the Republic of Lebanon, and not via the Americans. So the United States is playing the role of mediator between Lebanon and Syria first. Then Syria is playing the role of mediator between one Lebanese party and another. All that we want is for the United States to be really a mediator and for Syria, in particular, to be a mediator, not a party involved.

AL-HAWADITH: You now cast doubts on the Syrian role whereas Raymond Iddih, in a recent statement, emphasized that there was an intention to rely on the Syrian Army to control the security situation in Lebanon until the Army can be deployed. He said that it was you and lawyer [Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Deputy Chairman] Karim Paqraduni who brought the Syrian Army to Lebanon. What would you say?

Sa'adah: I do not want to engage in an argument with Raymond Iddih, who still lives in memories and perhaps in delusions. He knows exactly under what circumstance we went to Syria and what the Syrian role was. He also knows well that the Syrian Army would not have waited for Karim Paqraduni or George Sa'adah in order to enter Lebanon. When we went to Syria the Syrian Army was was already approaching Bhamdun. It was not we who asked the Syrian Army to enter. That is a fact. As of today we are ready to reply to all accusations aimed at us by any party whatever.

Anyhow, the Syrian Army entered Lebanon and was covered by the Arab League as being an Arab deterrent army. After a period of time, both President Ilyas Sarkis and President al-Jumayyil demanded that the Syrian Army should leave Lebanon. So, if Georges Sa'adah and Karim Paqraduni have made a mistake, as Iddih imagines, why is he asking the Syrian Army to stay in Lebanon while we are approaching the presidential elections?

Anyhow, we are against the idea of entering into arguments with anyone, in these circumstances in particular, lest anything said be taken as a kind of appeasement aimed at making some selfish gains. But after the elections we will be ready to reveal all cards. [passage omitted]

Tashnag Party Attacks Soviet Policy on Armenia

NC290533 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Tashnag Party attacked Soviet policy for disregarding the Armenian people's demands regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The party expressed the hope that these natural and legitimate demands will be met fairly.

The party statement concluded by saying that there can be no peace or serious cooperation among the various nationalities unless the rights of peoples, particularly the Armenian people, are recognized with the return of the Nagorno-Karabakh region to Soviet Armenia.

Arab League Delegation Arrives 25 Mar

NC251852 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab League delegation consisting of Ambassador As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League assistant secretary general, and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Information Department, arrived in Beirut this afternoon. Their visit comes as part of an Arab effort to lend support to the uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory and to the national resistance in southern Lebanon. The delegation is making a tour of a number of Arab capitals in support of the uprising.

Meets With Al-Huss, Al-Husayni

NC261302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The Palestinian uprising in the occupied land has received a great deal of attention from the Lebanese people. Senior Lebanese officials today stressed their determination to support the uprising on the popular, international, and economic levels. Arab League delegation members who conferred with Lebanese officials were briefed on this stand by Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

The Arab League delegation first met with Dr al-Huss in his home. Al-Huss later left for London on a private visit to open the Arab Banks Federation conference. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Ambassador As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League assistant secretary general, was asked whether the delegation was seeking anything specific from Lebanon in support of the uprising. He replied: I believe that Lebanon has offered the Palestinian cause a great deal. This uprising represents the entire Arab nation for those who suffer from Israeli occupation. He said: We found that acting Prime Minister al-Huss is quite ready to support the uprising at the popular and international levels, and this came as no surprise.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh stated: Our visit is the first by PLO members within the framework of the Arab League since 1983. The visit indicates that all attempts to subvert Lebanese-Palestinian relations have failed. [passage omitted]

'Abd Rabbuh Departs

NC271012 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Arab League delegation member and head of the PLO Information Department, left Beirut for Czechoslovakia this morning, after holding talks with Arab League Assistant Secretary General As'ad al-As'ad and some Lebanese officials. Their discussions dealt with supporting the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, agreeing to convene a special Arab summit, and considering Land Day on Wednesday, 30 March, as a day for supporting the uprising.

In a statement at the airport, 'Abd Rabbuh expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his discussions in Lebanon. He said that the purpose of his visit to Czechoslovakia is to discuss with government and party officials there the issue of supporting the uprising.

SLA Deputy Commander Relieved of Post

NC290800 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Middle East Television has carried a report stating that 'Aql Hashim, a lieutenant in the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has been put in charge of the western sector of the security zone. He replaces SLA Deputy Commander Captain Sharbil Barakat, who has been relieved of his post. The source did not specify the reasons for this decision.

Israeli Forces Reportedly on Alert on Border

NC291600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] REUTER cites arrivals from Al-Biqa' as saying that the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] have been placed on a maximum state of alert. These arrivals have said that tanks and armored vehicles have been spotted since yesterday evening patrolling the area along the Lebanese-Israeli border. The Israelis have set up observation posts in order to expose any attempt to infiltrate into Israel to launch attacks on the Land Day anniversary. In addition, Israeli helicopters and warplanes flew over the border area and Israeli forces fired flares and lit floodlights during the night to disclose any infiltration attempt.

Western Al-Biqa' Overflights

NC292001 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', Israeli warplanes have been flying over the 'Ayn 'Ata area and Mount Hermon, dropping flares. This is happening while Israeli and South Lebanese Army reinforcements consisting of men and equipment are being dispatched to the border areas.

Israeli Forces, SLA Attack Kafr Rumman

NC300927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0923 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] According to security sources in the south, a huge Israeli force advanced toward Kafr Rumman after having violently bombarded the Kafr Rumman-Al-Nabatiyah intersection. The last reports say that the Israeli forces have entered Kafr Rumman and are now near the town's cooperative building.

'Ferocious' Battle Reported

NC300945 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] REUTER has cited security sources as saying that ferocious battles are going on between Israeli troops and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on one side, and groups of armed fundamentalists on the other, around Kafr Rumman, 3 km from the security strip. According to the sources, Israeli and SLA troops advanced toward the town at dawn, supported by tanks and armored vehicles. UNIFIL sources have stated that more than 100 shells fell on Kafr Rumman.

The Israeli army's long-range artillery shelled Al-Nabatiyah, Habbush, and Kafr Tibnit this morning. Israeli helicopters also hovered over the area in reconnaissance sorties.

According to sources in the south, the reconnaissance missions are part of precautionary measures in the security strip, as well as in the West Bank and Gaza.

'Terrorist' Centers Destroyed

NC301120 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] carried out a combing operation against terrorists in the Kafr Rumman area today. The SLA succeeded in destroying a number of the terrorist centers, without suffering any casualties.

Israeli Forces Withdraw

NC301301 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to the latest reports, the Israeli occupation forces began withdrawing from Kafr Rumman amid intensive Israeli helicopter flights at 1245 today. Meanwhile, Amal forces in the area fired antiaircraft weapons at the aircraft. Resistance fighter Muhammad 'Ali al-Sabbah was martyred in the Kafr Rumman battles.

The shelling directed at Al-Nabatiyah and its outskirts has died down. At 1245 the shelling of 'Arab Salim was resumed and an exchange of machinegun fire was reported between Amal and enemy positions.

The occupation forces advanced into Kafr Rumman at 1145 today. Vicious clashes ensued between these forces and Amal strugglers; grenades and automatic weapons were used. An enemy M-113 armored personnel carrier was destroyed during the fighting. [passage omitted]

Enemy helicopter flights had been monitored since the morning, while gunboats patrolled the Lebanese coast. At 0900 today Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, Habbush, 'Arab Salim, Kafr Jawz, Kafr Milki, Al-Nabatiyah, and the outskirts of Sidon were subjected to violent shelling by 12-mm guns and intense machinegun fire from enemy positions in the Al-Suwaydah and Saydun hills. No casualties were reported. There was, however, extensive property damage. [passage omitted]

This morning resistance fighters attacked the Abu Qamhah position, which is held by agent Lahd militiamen. Fierce fighting followed the attack; the agent radio admitted this, although it failed to mention any casualties.

An Amal military source in the south has denounced the brutal attack on the villages in the south and stated: The Zionist enemy has made a practice of inflicting unjust treatment on our people in the occupied and liberated areas, shelling them, using sniper fire against them, committing atrocities against them, and preventing them from earning a living. Meanwhile, Amal's Lebanese resistance groups are continuing their confrontation of the enemy in order to drive them from our chaste land, while inflicting severe losses on them in equipment and personnel.

Casualities, Shelling Reported

NC301426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The town of Kafr Rumman, in the Al-Nabatiyah District, is coming under intermittent artillery fire following today's massacre by an Israeli-Lahd joint force in which four citizens were martyred.

According to reports, Kafr Rumman was the target of approximately 500 shells today, which damaged and set several buildings ablaze. The same reports note that the positions manned by the occupation forces in Saff al-Hawa shelled the villages of Haddathah and 'Ayta al-Jabal at 1440 this afternoon.

Amal Seizes Cargo Intended for Palestinians

NC281804 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Amal Movement this afternoon diverted a ship heading for the PSP-controlled port of Khaldah to the Amal-controlled port of Al-Awzai' [in West Beirut]. Amal sized the ship's cargo, which consisted of cars and medical supplies sent as aid for the Palestinians.

Amal Releases 6 Palestinian Detainees

NC292023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] In honor of Land Day, on the occasion of the anniversary of the launching of the Amal Movement, and in implementation of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's decision, six Palestinians who were being held by the Amal Movement were released this afternoon. The movement called on the Palestinian side to respond to this initiative by releasing Amal Movement members who are still being held by the Palestinians.

9 Feb Group Claims Attacks on Syrians in North

NC280814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for two operations against Syrian occupation forces in the north within the past 48 hours. The first operation was targeted against a Syrian post in Tal'at al-'Umari in the Bab al-Tabbanah quarter of Tripoli, causing a number of deaths among the Syrians. The second was carried out against a Syrian occupation center near the Al-Siddiq gasoline station on the Bhannin Road junction in the town of Al-Minyah. Muhammad Hamadah and 'Ali al-Badawi, both from the Syrian special units, were wounded in the attack.

Jordan's Al-Rifa'i Arrives; Meets Al-Zu'bi
JN301025 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus at 1215 today on a visit to the country. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of ministers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Al-Zu'bi and Al-Rifa'i headed for Al-Rawdah Palace in an official motorcade where they held a closed meeting.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad
JN301630 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at 1300 today. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

Mr al-Rifa'i delivered to the president a message from His Majesty King Husayn. The talks dealt with the developments in the region, the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories, and issues of mutual concern. Al-Rifa'i, Khaddam, and Al-Zu'bi attended a luncheon given by the president.

Memo Submitted on Closure of PLO Office
JN281542 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] The Syrian Government has submitted a detailed memorandum to the International Court of Justice in reply to the U.S. stand on the closure of the PLO office in New York. In this memorandum, the government depended on the following bases and facts:

1. The U.S. Congress passed a law which, in turn, was also passed by the President of the United States on 28 December 1987. Chapter 10 of this law, which came under the name Anti-Terrorist Law of 1988, enumerates incidents which it attributed to the PLO and in which several Americans were killed. The law says the PLO Charter clearly stipulates that armed struggle is the only means to liberate Palestine and that this constitutes a general policy and not a tactical phase.

Paragraph B [as heard] of the aforementioned law stipulates that the Congress determines that the PLO and its branches are a terrorist organization and a threat to the interests of the United States and its allies as well as to international law. Therefore, it must not benefit from work in the United States. Paragraph 1003 [as heard] of the aforementioned law stipulates certain prohibitions concerning the PLO. These are:

The PLO is prohibited from establishing or maintaining any office, headquarters, centers, facilities, or establishments within the limits of the territories subject to or under the supervison of U.S. authorities.

2. The United Nations has considered this law as contrary to the UN headquarters agreement which was concluded by the United States and the United Nations on 26 June 1947. This agreement contains the rules and regulations on the basis of which the United Nations established its headquarters in the City of New York and received the members of the permanent delegations of the member states in this world organization. These delegations set up their permanent missions in the organization and established their offices in the City of New York.

The United Nations has entered into a dispute with the U.S. Government on the interpretation and implementation of the aforementioned headquarters agreement. The United Nations called for applying the provisions of Article 8 Section 21 of the agreement which specifies the methods which must be followed in the case of a disagreement on the interpretation and implementation of the agreement which is summed up as follows:

The resport to negotiations or any other method to settle the dispute.

Referring the dispute to an arbitration court consisting of three arbitrators to adopt a final decisionon the dispute.

The secretary general of the United Nations shall name one of the arbitrators. The U.S. secretary of state shall name the second arbitrator. The thrid arbitrator shall be chosen by the two other arbitrators. If there is no agreement on his appointment, he shall be chosen by the president of the International Court of Justice.

3. When the UN secretary general decided to settle the dispute through negotiations, a court settlement was sought in the hope that the Untied States would also do the same. However, the latter declined to do that, which prompted the UN General Assembly to hold three meetings at the request of the Arab states. The last of these meetings was held on 23 March and it was decided to seek the opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the United States is obliged to enter into arbitration in accordance with Section 31 of the aforementioned headquarters agreement.

4. The PLO, whose mission the United States wants to close, enjoys observer status in the United Nations which was granted on 23 November 1974. In such a capacity, the PLO enjoys the immunities and privileges provided for in the headquarters agreement. Under this agreement, the United States pledged not to impose any restrictions on the movement of persons invited by the United Nations to or from the headquarters and to provide protection for them regardless of the relations between their governments and the host country.

This agreement also stipulates that the Untied States will refrain from asking these persons to leave due to any activities they may be carrying out in their official capacity while enjoying the privileges and exemptions required by their movement to carry out duties related to the organization.

5. The United States continued its arbitrary stand by filing a suit against the PLO before the U.S. court in the State of New York to obtain a judgment to close the organization's office. The U.S. Department of Justice has also sent an order to the PLO to close its office by 3/3/1988 [as heard] pursuant to the aforementioned law.

6. The U.S. has violated the headquarters agreement. As we said earlier, this agreement guarantees diplomatic immunity for all UN delegations. Without this agreement, the Untied Nations cannot function in an independent, free atmosphere. In view of the seriousness of this violation and in view of the fact this stand may result in a serious precedent represented by the United States evading its international obligations, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has felt it appropriate in accordance with the basic law of the International Court of Justic to submit a detailed memorandum to the aforementioned court.

The memorandum points out the Syrian legal viewpoint on the U.S. stand which violates the provisions and principles of international law. The following are the main bases of the aforementioned memorandum of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic:

U.S. respect for the headquarters agreement is an important factor in facilitating the work of the United Nations and creating the necessary atmosphere for fulfilling its responsibilities and international obligations as well as applying the principles provided for by the UN Charter in the interest of peoples and the achievement of stability and peace in the world.

The PLO's permanent mission has enjoyed UN observer status over the past 14 years. The nations accredited to the United Nations have recognized the PLO in this capacity. Furthermore, the United States has granted the PLO's offices and delegates protection and diplomatic immunity and also guaranteed free movement for the members of the PLO delegation to and from the United Nations without any obstacle. What has changed in the PLO's status now?

The reservation in the aforementioned headquarters agreement concerning the security of the United States applies only to the other U.S. territories, not the UN headquarters and its vicinity and the headquarters of the delegations accredited to the United Nations, including the delegations of missions which enjoy the status of permanent observer. These areas are subject to the provisions of the headquarters agreement, which provides them with diplomatic protection and immunity.

The dispute raised by the Anti-Terrorist Law passed by the U.S. Congress cannot amend or cancel the international agreement to which the United States has pledged itself before the United Nations. It is legally and internationally known that international agreements which have been ratified by nations in accordance with their own constitutional systems have preference over local laws in implementation. Therefore, concerning the dispute between the headquarters agreement and the Anti-Terrorist law, priority is given to the headquarters agreement.

In view of all this, the United States should accept the provisions of the aforementioned Section 31 and agree to resort to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this section.

It will be recalled that Syria was the first Arab country to intervene with the International Court of Justice in the dispute between the United Nations and the United States.

Envoy in Damascus Comments on ICO Walkout

LD260924 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Damascus, March 26, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's personal representative to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Fehri here Friday condemned Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in Halabjah, north-eastern Iraq.

Addressing worshippers at the Friday prayers in the Holy Shrine of Hadhrat Zeinab (A.S.) he said that in perpetrating its atrocities in Halabjah the Iraqi Government was driven by the same motive that impelled the Saudi Government to massacre pilgrims in Mecca July 1987.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fehri deplored silence of international organizations towards Iraqi chemical bombardment of Kurdish populated northern Iraqi cities.

Further in his sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam Fehri described the recently concluded Amman session of the Islamic Conference Organization as a forum dedicated to the goals of the world imperialism and meaning to manipulate world public opinion and protecting client states of the region.

He referred to dls. 10 million aid to the Saudi regime to the Amman conference and insinuations of the 'reactionary rulers,' he said that the Iranian delgation could only choose to pull out of the session.

Damascus Radio on U.S. 'Old Ideas' on Mideast

JN291525 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has expressed its regret over the Zionist enemy's measure to close the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with the approach of Land Day. Such regret does not constitute an effective or deterrent position. At best, it only touches reality without exploring its essence.

The Zionist enemy measure is part of a series of criminal practices in the occupied Arab territories aimed at quelling the popular uprising, whose flames have extended to teritories occupied in 1948, proving that the iron-fist policy, cutting off food and water, and breaking bones will fail to restore the situation that prevailed before the eruption of the popular volcano, which is increasing day after day. This uprising also proves there is no coexistence with the occupation and at some point no future for it.

Any U.S. move ignoring the basics of the conflict in the region resulting from the Israeli occupation as well as disregarding the Palestinian Arab people's national rights will never succeed. On the contrary, it will further complicate the situation and endanger the region. The United States has tried to market its settlement of the Middle East problem under the cover of peace. But the Camp David peace means more aggression against the Arabs and more Zionist terrorism in the Middle East. Washington has not been able to market Camp David in the region despite all its pressure, including direct involvement in the region's conflict during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the policy of massing fleets in the Arab seas and waters.

If the United States is serious in searching for a just and comprehensive settlement, we can say that the conditions for such a settlement are clear, available, and cannot be ignored and bargained over. These conditions are represented in regaining all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to self- determination, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent state. These bases can be put into effect through an effective UN-sponsored international conference empowered to implement international resolutions. These bases constitute a criterion by which we can discover the seriousness of any position or move.

The policy of unilateral settlements, partial solutions, and marketing old ideas in new guise will not find fertile soil because they constitute an extension and a protection of the Zionist enemy's brutal and repressive practices and its challenge to the will of the international community and the UN resolutions.

These facts are well known to the world and any attempt to contain them will only further endanger the situation, no matter how many hollow words about peace conceal themselves under brilliant slogans. Peace cannot coexist with the occupation and the usurpation of rights. To achieve a just and comprehensive peace, we should deal with factors blocking it.

Paper Questions Shultz Tour's 'Evil Maneuvers'

JN300855 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "When and How the Arabs Will Confront the U.S.-Zionist Challenge," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says:

Our people who offered tens of martyrs in the heroic confrontations against the Zionist occupation forces on the road to freedom and the restoration of all usurped rights know full well how to deal with this Nazi enemy and its new brutal measures. In fact, they have become capable of making these measures turn against the enemy itself.

While viewing this neo-Nazism, which is represented by the Zionist entity and its brutal measures, perhaps it would be useful to say that these measures which were carried out against our people, and which the international community considered the most brutal throughout contemporary history, took place following Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington and that they coincide with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' readiness to begin a new tour of the region. This is in addition to the aggressive statements the enemy leaders make daily against the Arab nation in general. After all this, is it not necessary to ask why this Shultz tour and what are its true objectives?

AL-BA'TH adds: Undoubtedly, Washington has several ways of maneuvering to market its goods. It is also known that Washington masters playing with words, particularly when it is in a position that does not allow it to act as it wants.

In light of this, we would like to reiterate the need to warn against these evil maneuvers, especially since the kinfolk's revolution appeals to all Arabs to support it at least morally under these circumstances, taking into consideration that the escalating popular revolution is actually considered a unique opportunity for the Arab nation to make further victories and achievements. The Zionists and the Americans declared their joint plan in a frank and clear manner during Shamir's recent visit to Washington. They stressed the following: No to the international conference, no to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and no to a Palestinian state.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Still we must ask: Where is the general Arab program to confront this flagrant U.S.-Zionist challenge? Will we take action, but when and how?

Afghanistan

Kabul Notes 'Main Obstacle' in Geneva Talks

LD292148 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Afghan-Pakistani talks conducted through the mediation of Cordovez, special envoy of the United Nations, were resumed yesterday in Geneva. Cordovez held meetings yesterday first with Zain Noorani, head of the Pakistani delegation, and then with Abdol Wakil, head of the Afghan delegation. Political commentators remark that the Pakistan's insistence on linking the issue of ending U.S. aid to the armed groups opposing the revolution of Afghanistan with the cessation of the Soviet Union's traditional help to the Republic of Afghanistan is the main obstacle in the path of signing the Geneva agreements.

Groups Protest Pakistan's Stand at Geneva Talks

Gardeyz Meetings

LD290841 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 28, BAKHTAR—Tens of thousands of residents of Gardeyz City and its suburbs, elders and chieftains of frontier tribes of Paktia Province through staging protest meetings (?and a march) today in the Pashtunistan Square of Gardeyz City, centre of Paktia Province, raised their voice of protest against the proposal of the Pakistani Government in the Geneva talks for recognition of the so-called Durand Line.

During the meeting Al Haj Qandahari, chairman of Provincial Council of National Front of Paktia Province, and Haji Bahram Ghardizi, a social figure of that province, in their speeches severely condemned the raising of the issue of Durand Line in Geneva talks and called it contrary to the rightful cause of Pashtuns and Baluchis.

They also backed and supported the policy of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan and statements of the Republic of Afghanistan for the solution of situation around Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting a resolution in support of the principled stand of the Republic of Afghanistan and condemnation of the Pakistani proposal for the recognition of the so-called Durand Line was issued.

UN Messages

LD300858 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR—The people of Afghanistan by holding protest rallies in different parts of the country and social organisations in their messages have strongly condemned the Pakistani attempt to raise the issues of the so-called Durand Line at Geneva talks.

The Central Council of National Front and the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the Republic of Afghanistan in their separate messages addressed to Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organisation, have strongly denounced the Pakistani attempt to raise the issue of the so-called Durand Line. The people of free tribes, the messages continue to say, have never officially recognized the so-called Durand Line and will never do so in the future as well.

The Government of Afghanistan has adopted a flexible and constructive approach in Geneva talks and calls for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

However, the Government of Pakistan has procrastinated the process of Geneva talks by creating artificial obstacles one of which is the bringing up of the issue of the so-called Durand Line. This is a clear enmity of Pakistani side with the established rights of Pashtuns and Baluchis.

The Central Councils of National Front and the Trade Unions of Afghanistan in their separate messages have requested the UN secretary general to use his authority for speeding up the peace process in Geneva talks and not to allow the Pakistani side to draw the talks to deadlock by making artificial pretexts.

The Central Committee of Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan in a message has strongly denounced the issue of the so-called Durand Line and has described it as another pretext for procrastinating the peace talks and for signing the Geneva accords.

Further on Mujahidin's Anti-Tank Missiles

BK290836 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 29 Mar 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 29 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels received a first consignment of Milan anti-tank missiles this month, sharply boosting their military capability, diplomatic and mujahidin sources said Tuesday.

Some 140 of the missiles, jointly manufactured by France and West Germany, have been delivered to all seven groups in the mujahidin resistance alliance based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Islamabad and Peshawar. [passage omitted]

The missiles should be operational on the ground within one or two weeks, a well-informed source said.

The rebels had some initial problems using the Milan, which was only 60 per cent effective, the sources said, adding that the missiles were rather old.

These difficulties have been overcome and newer Milans have been brought in, informed sources here said. [passage omitted]

The sources said the moderate fundamentalist Jamiat-e Eslami of Burhanuddin Rabbani and the radical Hezb-e Eslami of alliance chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had received more missiles than the five other groups in the grouping. [passage omitted]

National Front, Ministers Address Expatriates
LD292215 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The National Front of Afghanistan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan have addressed the following message to compatriots living far from home:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Dear far-from-home compatriots,

National reconciliation has removed all obstacles that existed in the way of peace—for which you have been waiting for a very long time. We invite you, brothers and sisters, to the homeland. The doors of the country are open to you. There is room for everyone. Everyone will receive you with pleasure.

Return to your homes. We, who have been expecting you for a long time, will receive you. Cultivate wheat; do you not miss the attractive fragrance of your farms? Make the orchards flourish; it has been 9 years since your hands touched grapes from your country's vines. Breathe your country's air.

Why do you live in alien countries? Naturally, you do not want a war that brings to your brothers and sisters enormous suffering, pain, sorrow and death. As many as 11,000 people have returned during the past year, despite obstacles. Our compatriots have returned home from 18 countries: India, Kuwait, Egypt, West Germany, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Japan, Turkey, Switzerland, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia. This figure is 15 times more than any previous year.

Those who have returned home are provided with food, work, and housing. They are granted the right to participate in the coalition government and local power organs. Young people are given deferment from service in the army. Those who were government employees or army officers have been appointed in their previous positions. Retired people have been given pensions. Their properties have been returned to them. Children of returnees are enrolled in educational institutions.

Our compatriots, Mohammad Barat, Abdul Karim, Zaboli and others enjoy special respect and authority because of their participation in the struggle for peace and a prosperous life for the people of Afghanistan. They have choosen the only way for the current times and the future. They have choosen the ancient way, the way of the homeland, and the way of prosperity for their children. They spent a long time in the alien countries as you do now. They also worried as you do about how they would be received in the country. They spent nights thinking about it and eventually took the only right step, which was toward their villages and toward peace.

It reminds us of a folk song:

The dust of our country is better than the throne of Solomon,

The thorns of our country are better than tulips,

Joseph who ruled Egypt,

Being a beggar should have been better, but in Canaan.

Dear far-from-country patriots, you know that the people wait for your united peaceful work and your free and prosperous life. You are given the opportunity to actively participate in social life, to freely express your views and, in line with national reconciliation, to set up your associations and organizations which are reflective of the people's interests.

Dear compatriots, return to your ancestral home. You will be helped to get jobs, to find homes; and your children will be helped to go to schools and colleges. Elections are due in the near future. Our compatriots who have returned home can be elected to parliament's lower house and senate. You can also introduce your candidate and actively participate in the creation of traditional organs to administer the country.

Compatriot brothers and sisters, whatever the reason you left the country, return to your homes.

Let us put into practice this slogan: Peace for your home means peace and prosperity for Afghanistan.

And the victory is from God.

[signed] The National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan; the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers.

Islamic Alliance's Hamza Rejects Talks
PM300855 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mir Hamza Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Pakistan Will Not Abandon Mujahidin; No Dispute Between Afghan Groups"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Member of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin and member of the Higher Council of the Alliance of Mujahidin Organizations, Mir Hamza, said that the setting up of an Afghan Mujahidin transitional government is a step

toward settling the Afghan crisis and achieving a Soviet withdrawal from Afghan territory. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he pointed out that the Republic of Pakistan will neither relinquish nore support the interests of the mujahidin.

Mir Hamza has urged the 17th conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states, which concludes its proceedings in Amman today, to recognize the transitional government and to pass a comprehensive and precise decision concerning the Afghan issue, and the need for the mujahidin delegation to participate in the conference as a member and not as a guest.

He said that the Islamic states ought to recognize an independent Islamic Afghan government built on wide popular support, with the participation of the Afghan mujahidin and emigre groups, which will also ensure the holding of elections and the return of the refugees to their country, and he said: "We Afghans, as a free and independent people, must determine our future for ourselves". He also emphasized that an Islamic Afghan government will not include groups allied to the Soviets.

With respect to the participation of the Kabul government in an Islamic state, he vehemently rejected negotiations with those he termed "clients of the Soviet Union in the Afghan capital".

Hamza welcomed the Soviet Union's declaration of withdrawal from Afghan territory, stating that the Soviet Union had previously announced on a number of occasions its determination to withdraw from Afghan territory, saying: "If Mikhail Gorbachev were true to his declaration of withdrawal from Afghan territory, then the withdrawal must include all the political, economic, and military aspects, and in particular the cultural aspects".

He stated that the Soviet Union initially thought that it would be able to control Afghanistan through the use of military force, but that 150,000 Soviet soldiers stationed on Afghan territory have not been able to achieve security and stability inside the capital; and the mujahidin forces have put up armed resistance and inflicted a military defeat on them.

In the same vein Hamza said that the Soviet Union's feeling of military defeat has led it to undertake political initiatives to achieve the aims which it has failed to secure by military means.

Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin Commander Gulbuddin Hikmatyar was elected head of the Mujahidin Alliance by the seven organizations.

Mir Hamza denied that the resignation of former leader Yunis Khalis was sudden. He said that it was not for health reasons, merely saying: "The leadership of the alliance is assumed on a rotational basis".

He also denied the existence of a disparity in the position of the Afghan groups, or the existence of a difference in viewpoints.

'Extremist Leaders' Seeking Base in Iran

LD300845 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR—Following the visit of Burhanuddin Rabbani to Iran, the extremist leaders have recently sent their representatives to the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have gone there to agree on providing the grounds for conducting subversive activities fr n the territory of Iran against the Republic of Afghanistan, reports reaching here say.

The representatives of the extremist leaders have gifted [as received] twelve Stingers to the Iranian leaders. This has not been confirmed so far by other sources.

Najibullah Receives AAPSO Official 28 Mar

LD282227 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this afternoon in his office (Morad Ghalab), acting chairman of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization. Sarwar Mangel, head of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan, was also present during this meeting.

Keshtmand Speech Opens AAPSO Conference 29 Mar

LD300039 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan: As you heard in tonight's news bulletins, the international AAPSO conference about the role of social circles in solving regional issues was convened today in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. At this broad international gathering, 130 delegates from 50 countries of the world and 15 social organizations, as well as journalists from 16 press centers of various countries and peace fighters have participated. Here we broadcast tonight the first part of the work of conference.

At the opening session of this conference, convened this morning at the Malmapal Hotel hall, Sarwar Mangal, deputy chairman of the World Peace Council and head of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan, spoke first on behalf of this organization. He welcomed the guest delegations to Kabul and shed light on the importance of convening this conference under the current world circumstances and present conditions of our country. Then Prime Minister of Afghanistan Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand opened the work of this conference with his speech. May we draw your attention to this speech:

[Begin Keshtmand recording] Esteemed participants in this conference and dear friends:

Allow me to welcome you—the participants in this AAPSO international conference—and express my profound appreciation for the convocation of this high conference in Kabul City, the capital of the Republic of Afghanistan.

First of all, I want to mention that here in our country the name of AAPSO is well known. This organization enjoys regional characteristics with and operates in close cooperation and solidarity with all progressive forces of the world. It has taken an important position in the world's anti-imperialist front. The people of Afghanistan express appreciation for the valuable and continuous cooperation of AAPSO and similar international organizations for the people of Afghanistan's just struggle for the creation of a peaceful atmosphere in which to work and live.

History's bitter experience teaches us that whenever the imperialist and reactionary forces have found the atmosphere surrounding their ambitious interests tense, they have embarked on the illegitimate means of war. Just such an unjust war has been imposed on our country for the past 9 years: A war which does not observe any rules; a war in which the immediate victims are the rights of human beings and our society. After long years of war and fratricide and acceptance of enormous economic losses and destructions, our people are weary of the continuing war. Today the slogan of peace is being transformed to the high aspirations of the people and the immediate desire of our time.

Through the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy and our earnest endeavors to realize this policy, we have in fact devoted all of our energy, possibilities and earnest endeavors to realize this most sacred aspiration of our people.

Our policy of national reconciliation has come together with a new political thought, and our people support this policy. The results of the first year's implementation of the policy of national reconciliation are formidable and hopeful. Noticeable transformations have taken place in the socio-political and economic life of our people. We have taken firm steps for the creation and consolidation of people's sovereignty on the basis of coalition, the growth of a mixed economy, and work in conditions of a multiparty political system. The necessary ground has been created in our country for the creation and strengthening of a coalition government with the participation of representatives of the opposition forces.

At this very moment, nonparty people comprise over 76 percent of the councils and executive committees of local organs. In 13 provinces, nonparty persons, including 7 persons from former opposition forces, were appointed governors. Similarly, in 14 districts and in 9 subdistricts in the past year coalition councils and executive committees have been created which include 376 returnees and 2,096 members of opposition groups. A total of 6,000 of these persons are currrently in all coalition organs.

At the moment, in addition to all cities and wards, 148 districts and 68 subdistricts, and 50 percent of the villages of the country are under government control. They include 3,200 villages that peacefully came under national sovereignty during the first year of national reconciliation. Since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, over 40,000 armed opponents have gone over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation and have given up fighting. Over 120,000 refugees have returned to the homeland, and 12,000 prisoners have been released from prison.

The new constitution has created a legal foundation for the formation of a multiparty political system and mixed economy. The decree for the functioning of political parties was enforced. According to this decree, so far four parties have been registered and have commenced their activities. The Law of Elections to the National Assembly was recently approved. In accordance with this law, the elections to this high organ of sovereignty will take place 16-26 April.

Esteemed friends: Under the circumstances of implementing the national reconciliation policy, performing duties related to socio-economic growth are of exceptional importance. In the complicated situation stemming from the undeclared war, the government has been constantly trying to carry out its duties to implement plans for the country's socio-economic development aimed at raising the standard of living of the Afghan people. [passage omitted]

Dear friends: The national reconciliation and peace policies have always been clearly reflected in our country's foreign policy. On the basis of this policy—including our approach vis-a-vis the issues raised in Geneva—talks have always been valuable and flexible. In these talks, we have made numerous concessions and have taken broad constructive steps for paving the way to resolve the situation around Afghanistan. However, we must keep in mind that compromise, both at the national level and at the international level, necessarily cannot be a one-way street. Up to now—and especially recently—in return for every softening in position by the Afghan side in order to reduce the distance between the two parties' positions, the opposing side has taken a step backward and has become more obstinate. As everyone knows, during the 6 years of indirect talks between the Afghan and Pakistani delegations through the UN secretary general's representative, four complete documents on resolving the external dimensions of the situation around Afghanistan have been drafted and these documents have nearly been finalized.

In the past, the opposite side has persistently demanded that an acceptable timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet limited troop units from Afghanistan be determined. It has said that if an accord on this timetable is reached, then all the basic phases of the Geneva talks will in fact be completed and the four documents will be ready for signing. In their statements of 8 February 1988, Esteemed Najibullah, Republic of Afghanistan President, and M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, displayed the political determination and good will of both countries for settling the Afghan situation in accordance with their countries' peaceful policies.

In these statements, a positive reply was given to the opposite side's demands for the withdrawal of the major portion of the Soviet Union's limited units in the first stage of the timetable. The signing of an accord in Geneva was not conditioned on reaching an agreement on the creation of a coalition government. During the current round of talks, the Afghan delegation took a further step: Instead of 10 months, it has agreed to a 9-month timetable; it has also agreed that 50 percent of the USSR's limited units will be withdrawn in the first 3 months and the rest in the remaining 6 months.

The Republic of Afghanistan had hoped that by accepting the proposed conditions by the opposite side concerning the timetable, the last obstacles to signing the Geneva documents would be removed and the parties would be able to achieve a comprehensive political resolution of the situation around Afghanistan. While the people of Afghanistan and all peace-loving forces of the world warmly welcomed this initiative and pinned their enormous hopes on the imminent success of the Geneva talks, Pakistan and the United States unfortunately at once began creating pretexts and raising artificial conditions wholly alien to the contents of the Geneva talks.

The United States has put forward wholly unacceptable and irrational plans and insists that simultaneously with the end to interference by this country—the military aid given to the armed opposition—the Soviet Union should also end its assistance to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Obviously these conditions are clearly contrary to the generally recognized norms of international law and accepted principles in relations between states. Moreover, there is no need to emphasize that issues concerning the form and nature of a government in a country can only be settled by the people of this country, without any kind of interference by foreign countries.

What conclusion can we draw from this unconstructive stand by the opposite side? Is it trying to reduce to nothing several years of lengthy UN efforts to resolve the present situation and in so doing destroy the long-held hopes of our persecuted people for a safe and peaceful life? How long do they want to add to the Afghan's people's sorrow and pain by imposing this destructive and devilish war for the purpose of achieving their strategic objectives?

We are waiting for the Pakistani government—in consideration of the high interest of this country's people and all the region's people—to act rationally, to display political realism and good will at the Geneva talks, and to take an independent step toward signing the Geneva accords.

The implementation of the national reconciliation policy has brought about a completely new situation in Afghanistan. This policy has proved its superiority in practice. Its formidable force is hidden in the unity and solidarity of our people and their unreserved struggle for an end to war and bloodshed, for a restoration of peace and social progress in the country. This shows that we cannot stop the growth of the revolution and social progress in the country. Under these circumstances, international solidarity with our people's struggle for implementing the policies of national reconciliation, an end to war and bloodshed, and a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan are of extraordinary importance.

All forces of peace and progress—the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO, and other international organizations—support our initiatives for restoring peace and solving the Afghan problem within the framework of the Geneva talks. There is no doubt that the growth and strengthening of international solidarity with the Republic of Afghanistan helps our people in their struggle for implementing and developing the national reconciliation policy and will bring about more feasible conditions in the international arena in bringing moral pressure on the United States, Pakistan, and the other circles and governments which are fanning the undeclared war. [passage omitted]

I am fully confident that the AAPSO initiative to convene an international conference in Kabul on the role of social circles in resolving regional issues will help to increase the importance and enhance the authority of these circles to assist the development of national reconciliation and its generalization for the solution of regional problems.

I wish you formidable victories in carrying out your crucial and humane duties at this sensitive point in world history. Thank you for your attention. [applause] [end recording]

Year-End Roundup on Local Government

LD271835 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 23, BAKHTAR—The process of elections to the local organs of state power and administration under the policy of national reconciliation has afforded the opportunity for the vast masses of the

people including the opposition forces to participate in the state affairs, a spokesman of the administration of local organs says to a BAKHTAR reporter.

Elections to the local organ of state power and administration was held in forty districts, 26 sub-districts, seven cities, four precincts and 4461 villages in the wake of the policy of national reconciliation in the last Afghan year ended March 19, 1988. A number of over 11,056 representatives of the people were elected in 1,168 councils and the executive committees and coalition councils have been formed in 14 districts and nine sub-districts. over 375 returnees and 2,096 members of former opposition groups were appointed in the composition of the coalition councils in the same period.

Since the beginning, elections to 29 provinces, Khost Grand District, 133 districts, 60 villages and 165 cities including Kabul City have taken place. Moreover, 2,564 councils have been established and 28,037 people's representatives, 76 percent of which are non-party people were elected to the local organs. Thirteen non-party persons, including seven opposition who have joined the policy of national reconciliation, were appointed as governors of the provinces.

The gains achieved in the sphere of elections to the local organs of state power and administration have considerably helped in securing peace and for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

BAKHTAR Political Observer on ICO Talks

LD290829 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 28, BAKHTAR—A Political Observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The results of the recently-concluded conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries in Amman once again showed that the enemies of the people of Afghanistan can never conceal the cause of peace of our people from the eyes of world people.

Among other issues discussed in the conference, certain reactionary circles of the member countries of the organisation put forward the so-called issue of Afghanistan. The representative of Pakistan in particular tried to justify the stand of his country vis-a-vis the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and to impose on the conference a resolution which was unilaterally prepared by Pakistan. However, the conference did not consider it, and emphasized the speedier political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Goodwill, political determination and flexible stand of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan reflected in the statement of the leaders of the two countries is quite clear.

Inaugurating the conference, the king of Jordan stated that the Afghans should not miss the opportunity for the stabilisation of the situation. He stressed that the Soviet Union is prepared to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and the Afghan people are expected to reconcile and to put an end to war. Other speakers at the conference also spoke of the favourable atmosphere created in Afghanistan as a result of the positive stand taken by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Owing to such a positive stand the most important issue, that is, the determination of the time-frame of the return of the Soviet contingent from Afghanistan has been solved.

The proceedings of the conference showed that the desperate efforts of the extremists and their supporters who tried to have a place at the conference were foiled. The conference emphasized that membership right to the Organisation of Islamic Conference is given to states, not to every group void of political and popular identity.

GDR Signs Higher Education Protocol 27 Mar

LD271853 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] A scientific and cultural protocol was signed today in Kabul between Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and the GDR'S Ministry of Higher and Technical Education.

The protocol was signed for Afghanistan by the deputy minister of higher and vocational education and for the GDR by the deputy minister of higher and technical education. Also present were Dr Abdol Wahed Sorabi, Afghanistan's minister of higher and vocational education, and Kraft Bumbel, GDR ambassador and representative extraordinary to Kabul.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Bulgaria

LD271940 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] A direct cooperation protocol was signed today in Kabul between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The protocol was signed in the presence of Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan, and (Ivan Mativ Ivanov), ambassador and representative extraordinary of People's Republic of Bulgaria, for Afghanistan by the head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Afghanistan and for Bulgaria by the head of the delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

According to this protocol, trade and information documents in connection with trade and industry will be exchanged between the countries on a permanent basis. The Bulgarian side will cooperate comprehensively with medium-sized and small industrial projects of the Republic of Afghanistan.

PDPA's Kawiani Returns From Europe 26 Mar

LD261938 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, returned to Kabul this afternoon after a visit to the GDR, the Republic of Bulgaria, and West Berlin.

He was greeted by Zohur Razmjo, Politburo member, PDPA Central Committee secretary and vice chairman of the party international relations affairs section, and by Ivan Martiv Ivanov, ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria in Kabul. During this visit, protocols of cooperation were signed between the PDPA and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Bulgarian Communist Party. Najmuddin Kawiani took part in the meetings of Afghan students in those countries, and talked to them about the successes of national reconciliation.

India

Gandhi Speaks on Unity at Newspaper Function

BK291616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against the continuing threats to the country's principles of secularism and socialism. He has said forces are at work to undermine our unity and our faith in socialism. The prime minister was speaking at a function to mark the silver jubilee of the newspaper PATRIOT in New Delhi today. He said communal and fundamentalist elements are trying to spread fear and distrust among our minorities as well as the majority communities. But these efforts have failed.

In Punjab, Hindus, and Sikhs have stood side by side in the face of death. Mr Gandhi said I have no doubt that this unity will prevail. Secularism will triumph. The terrorists will be defeated.

Turning to the concept of socialism, the prime minister said poverty cannot be abolished in India unless the state assumes the responsibility. Modern technology cannot be accomplished without state initiative. However, Mr Gandhi said, there are attempts at denigrating our efforts to adopt advanced technology by those who have a distorted view of socialism. If we try to make the public sector more efficient, the same people attack the government for weakening the socialist commitment.

Mr Gandhi declared there can be no dilution of our basic philosophy which has deep roots in our past and in the profound thinking and leadership of people like Mahatama Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru.

The prime minister said systematic efforts are being made to deride national achievements instead of strengthening the people to deal with new challenges. Referring to what he described as the challenge from a rightist combination, the prime minister said his party, the Congress, will fight it whatever its banner.

He also cautioned the people against those who had dressed up in the garb of democracy and freedom to hide the stark reality of reaction. He said the same people have reappeared along with some new recruits, but there has been no change in their ideology, motivation, or their commitment to reactionary ends. He said his party and the government would welcome those who share our ideology and even those who have no basic disagreement to join hands to build a strong and modern progressive India.

The prime minister paid glowing tributes to the founder of the PATRIOT, Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali, and described her as the one who continues to hold high the banner of the national freedom and pride. He complimented the newspaper for its proclaimed aims of defending Nehru's vision of freedom, socialism, secularism, and nonalignment.

Security Force Hit by Rocket Fire in Punjab

BK300310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, 4 persons, including 3 members of a family were shot dead and 11 persons, including 9 BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] were injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities last night.

In Ferozepore District, the terrorists intruded into the house of a farmer, Surjan Singh, in village Bharonibhan and opened indiscriminate fire. They killed Surjan Singh, his wife, and his son. In another incident in Ferozepore District, a panchayat [village council] member, Surjit Singh, was shot dead by the terrorists in village Mehma.

In Gurdaspur District, some terrorists fired rockets on a private truck carrying BSF patrolling party near village Ghoga under Batala Sadar police station. As a result, the truck was completely gutted and nine BSF personnel and the truck driver were injured.

Akali Dal Official Killed

BK300906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, a district-level Unified Akali Dal leader, Mr Swarup Singh, was among seven persons gunned down by terrorists in separate incidents in Amritsar District since last night. The killed included four members of a family, who were shot dead at

Rattakunda under Harike police station. Mr Swarup Singh was killed in Gilbari this morning. Two persons fell victims to bullets under Kalra and Jandiala police stations.

Assam Rifles, 'Angry Mob' Clash in Mizoram

BK300458 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In Mizoram, 13 persons, including 3 policemen, were injured when the Assam Rifles jawans [soldiers] opened fire on a crowd in Aijal last night. Two other injured have succumbed to the injuries. Twenty-one civilians also sustained minor injuries.

According to an official release, jawans of the Assam Rifles attacked the superintendent of police when he went to take into custody some of them creating trouble. The public supporting the police action and the jawans came to clashes. The jawans fired several rounds at the angry mob.

The situation is reported to be tense, but under control. However, as a precautionary measure, the district magistrate has promulgated prohibitory orders. An inquiry into the incident is being ordered by the state government.

Official on Disarming Soldiers

BK300858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In Mizoram, three more persons, including a woman and a police constable, were killed and two more were injured when the jawans [soldiers] of the 22d Battalion of the Assam Rifles opened fire for the second time at the assembling civilians. The civilians were assembling in front of Assam Rifles office at Aijal in protest against yesterday's firing.

As reported earlier, the Assam Rifles jawans opened fire at the civilians in Aijal last night, injuring 13 persons. Four of the injured persons succumbed to their injuries in civil hospital, bringing the total death toll in the two firing incidents to seven.

Meanwhile, the chief minister of Mizoram, Mr Lal Denga, who summoned his cabinet this morning, had decided to ask the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, to treat the actions of the Assam Rifles as a revolt against the government and to disarm them immediately. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The Mizoram government has announced ex-gratia payment of 50,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those who were killed and 20,000 to those who are being treated in the hospital. The state government has ordered a ban on the assembly of people.

Gurkha Front Activists Kill 2 in Darjeeling

BK300755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] In West Bengal, two CPI-M supporters were killed by the GNLF [Gurka National Liberation Front] activists in (Tanjeli) area in Darjeeling subdivision last night. One person was seriously injured in the incident. The district magistrate of Darjeeling, Mr D.P. Patra, told our Kurseong correspondent this morning that the GNLF activists, armed with guns, shot dead the CPI-M supporters and set their houses on fire. The additional police and BSF [Border Security Force] forces rushed to the area. Police have arrested four GNLF activists at Kurseong.

Tiwari Proposes New Import-Export Policy

BK300947 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The government today announced a new import-export policy to promote efficient import substitution and self-reliance. A 3-year policy, which comes into force from Friday, seeks to stimulate industrial growth by providing easy access to essential imported capital goods, raw materials, and components.

It will give a fresh impetus to export promotion by improving the quality of incentives. While simplifying the procedures, the policy also seeks to sustain the march toward modernization and technological upgradation and making the Indian industries progressively competitive internationally.

The commerce and finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, tabled a copy of the new policy in both houses of parliament this morning. Under it, the licensing will continue to be on the annual basis. In a statement, Mr Tiwari said a sincere effort has been made to reduce controls on exports to the barest minimum, both in coverage and nature of restriction. The system of quota licensing and free licensing has been abolished. Similarly, licensing on a first-come-first-served basis has also been abolished.

The new policy has added 99 more items of machinery to the list of capital goods which can be imported under Open General License [OGL]. These items relate to the electronics, silk, and the tea sectors. The list of raw materials, components, and consumables allowed for import under OGL has also been expanded by including 329 items. Mr Tiwari stated that import of 26 items has been decanalized [placed in a different category].

On the export front, the policy makes an attempt to reduce the multiplicity of schemes and to make the operation of the existing schemes more effective. The replenishment scheme has been modified to allow greater flexibility in imports and diversification of exports. A significant feature of the policy is the recognition of the role of indirect exporters to the export effort. All supplies made by indigenous producers

against duty-free licenses will be treated as deemed exports. The import-export passbook scheme is also being extended to cover well-established manufacturers in the domestic market.

Satellite Scanning Cameras Successfully Tested

BK291608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] All the three linear imaging self-scanning cameras aboard the Indian remote sensing satellite IRS-1A were successfully tested simultaneously today. The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Professor U.R. Rao, told newsmen in Hyderabad that the quality of the pictures taken is excellent and are comparable to any of those given by satellites of other countries. Professor Rao said the 975-kg satellite is just 20 km away from the 904-km orbit. He said the satellite is likely to be placed in the right orbit in a fortnight.

Iran

WIH Spokesman Denies Kuwaiti Island Attacked

LD301710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] A WIH spokesman, responding to a claim by the Kingdom of Kuwait concerning an attack by three Iranian boats against Bubiyan Island, has denied the claim, stating: The Kuwaiti leaders, with this imaginary story, are participating in a propaganda plot and pursuing specific and preset objectives.

He added: The Khawr 'Abdallah area is patrolled daily by the warriors of Islam to oppose any wrongdoing and plots by the enemies of the revolution. During a patrol yesterday, three Kuwaiti boats, spying on behalf of the Iraqi regime, were stopped by the warriors of Islam and were towed to an Iranian port for inspection. Today, the warriors of Islam continued their maritime patrol as usual. The point raised by the Kuwaitis is merely a ploy on the part of the leaders of that Kingdom.

The WIH spokesman explained Kuwait's goals in making this claim, saying: The Kuwaiti shaykhs are pursuing two goals in raising this issue. Their first goal is to overshadow the calamity of Halabjah. They are trying to free the Zionist Iraqi regime from the heavy burden of adverse public opinion and in order to do this they are coordinating with some other reactionary regimes. He added: The rapid response by the U.S. regime in Egypt concerning the Kuwaiti claim can be evaluated within the context of this coordinated plot.

The spokesman said the other Kuwaiti goal was to legitimize the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf because, in order to show the legitimacy of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, there exists the need to portray the Persian Gulf as an insecure area. By putting out such imaginary stories Kuwait is attempting to paint such a picture.

The WIH spokesman stressed in conclusion: The warriors of Islam will continue to control the areas under their influence in full strength and with complete capability, and will oppose the plots of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution. He warned the Kuwaiti leaders to remember the serious consequences of such plots.

'Most' Iraqi Cities Now Within Missile Range

LD291144 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—Mass production of Iranian-made missiles will shortly enable Iran to fire as many as 20 missiles a day into Baghdad, the Persian monthly PASDAR-E ESLAM (Guardian of Islam) today quoted Majlis speaker Hoj Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying. The missiles, slated to be mass produced, have a range of 130 kms. He has said to the monthly that the Iranian missiles are not imitations of the Scud-B's or other missiles.

In the wake of the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-4" operations Iranian troops positioned themselves as close as 100 kms from the Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Most critical towns and cities in Iraq are now within the range of Iranian missiles or Iran's artillery fire.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed "If we pay more attention to our missile industry we can get the better of Iraqi missiles." He added that Iran does not wish to embark on such a course but that it has to somehow dissuade the Iraqi Government from attacking cities. He urged the nation to maintain its resistance, to continue the war and put up with the peculiar social problems of the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that for the umpteenth time the Iraqi Government has proved its miscalculations in the war, since its attacks on Tehran has not positioned Baghdad on any better ground than it has been since the outbreak of the war. He said a visiting foreigner in Tehran can attest to the fact that the missile attacks on Tehran has not changed the every day life in the city.

The Majlis speaker said that escalation of the war of the cities has backfired on the Iraqi Government and made Iranians only more determined to fight on to an outright victory.

Mohtashemi Briefs Journalists Touring Areas

LD290910 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 29, IRNA—Fifth group of foreign reporters and cameramen Monday morning inspected Val-Fajr-10 and 4 [as received] operations areas in northeastern Iraq. Reporters from U.S., West Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, China visited sites of

Iraqi chemical bombardments in the area, including Anab village, 3 kms from Halabjah where hundreds of women, children and elderlies were martyred by Iraqi toxic chemicals.

The Muslim forces of Iran were busy collecting and burying the corpses scattered here and there in the village. On the way from the village to Dujaylah laid scattered bodies of Iraqi troops burnt tanks and personnel carriers.

While touring the area the visting reporters watched the downing of an Iraqi plane by the Muslim combatants of Iran.

The reporters also inspected positions of Iraqi forces on Dujaylah-Khurmal axis captured by the Iranian forces in the early hours of the "Val-Fajr-10" operations.

Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi who was in the area briefed the reporters on the operations and answered their questions. He said that the victims were being treated by the Iranians.

The reporters also visited a group of chemically-wounded victims at a hospital in Bakhtaran. A 12-year-old boy who has lost all members of his family in chemical bombardment of Halabjah is a chemical bombs victim who praised Muslim combatants of Iran for having taken him to hospital.

Comments on Victims' Treatment

LD291850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The first news report is an interview granted by the interior minister, following his tour of the liberated Iraqi city of Halabjah:

Interior Minister Mohtashemi came to the "Val-Fajr-10" area of operations to meet the warriors of Islam. He toured the liberated city of Halabjah and then held a news conference in Sanandaj. During the conference he noted that the city of Halabjah was destroyed and stated that a number of organizations of the executive branch have expressed their readiness to repair the damage to the city of Halabjah, which looks like a demolition area. [passage omitted]

Mr Mohtashemi added: Since the chemical bombing of the liberated cities of Iraqi Kurdistan during the "Val-Fajr-10" operations, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken in over 50,000 innocent Muslim brothers and sisters of the region and they are being temporarily housed in some western provinces, as well as in other parts of Islamic Iran. As a result of the efforts of various organizations in the country, work is progressing toward preparing conditions for their return to their homeland. He added: In this respect the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other organizations have undertaken to help the migrant Kurdish Iraqi brothers and sisters and a headquarters has been set up for this purpose.

Mr Mohtashemi then thanked the physician's society of Iran for helping the chemical victims of Halabjah and said: (?Treating the numerous) chemical weapons victims during the period of the imposed war has turned our doctors into some of the world's most skilled physicians. Following the chemical weapons attack against Halabjah, a large number of the victims were transferred to hospitals in our country and have been treated. So far 600-800 victims have been released and transferred to refugee camps.

He added: Currently some (?3,600) victims of Iraqi chemical weapons attacks in liberated Iraqi areas are undergoing treatment in hospitals and another 50 have been sent to European countries. [passage omitted]

Antigovernment Groups Warned of Arrest

LD300959 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here Wednesday warned all members and advocates of counter-revolutionary grouplets to surrender and receive writs of pardon before being arrested.

Mohtashemi in a statement said documents seized from Iraq's intelligence center in the northeastern Iraqi city of Halabjah liberated March 16, have disclosed complete lists and information about all members of the grouplets in western Iran as well as their connection.

Therefore, these elements should immediately report to the Islamic Republic officials and receive writs of pardon. The statement also warned against providing these elements with shelter saying that such people will be treated according to the law.

Chief Justice Sends Messages on Iraqi 'Crimes'

LD291627 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili sent messages and video-taped documentary on the brutal Iraqi crimes in Halabjah and Khormal to bar associations throughout the world.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, pointing to the international ban against chemical weapons, said the Halabjah massacre was more gruesome than crimes committed in the Second World War, Vietnam and occupied Palestine.

The chief justice called on world judiciary officials to use their influence and denounce Ba'thist regime's crime and force Baghdad against using chemical weapons and butchering innocent people.

On Friday March 18 Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on the Iranian liberated northeastern Iraqi town of Halabjah killing 5,000 civilians and badly maiming thousands of others.

Foreign Minister Departs for Greece 28 Mar

LD280558 Tehran IRNA in English 0551 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati led an Iranian delegation to Athens Monday morning on an official three-day visit, the first by an Iranian foreign minister since the Islamic Revolution.

In a brief interview here before departure Velayati said the political outlooks of the Greeks especially as regards the Persian Gulf and their opposition to foreign intereference in the waterway provides good grounds for expansion of mutual relations.

During the visit Velayati is to discuss broadening of Iran-Greece relations and their trade exchanges as well as regional and international issues.

Previews Meeting With Genscher

LD282009 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 28 Mar 88

[Text] Athens, March 28, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will meet his West German counterpart Hans Dietrich Genscher in the Greek capital on Tuesday. Both foreign ministers are currently in Athens on official visits. Velayati arrived here today for a 3-day official visit, while Genscher is to wrap up his 3-day official trip on Tuesday.

The meeting is taking place on the West German Foreign Minister Genscher's initiative.

Asked by IRNA to comment on his unexpected meeting with Genscher, Velayati said, "We have very friendly relations with Mr. Genscher as the foreign minister of West Germany. We have met each other on many occasions and we take this opportunity for exchange of views."

The Genscher-Velayati meeting takes place in the background of an international outcry on the renewed massive use of chemical weapons by Baghdad's Ba'thist regime against the Kurdish population in northeastern Iraq.

Genscher had in the past condemned Baghdad for the use of chemical weapons.

The West German foreign minister Monday met Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou and earlier held talks with his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias on the Middle East, bilateral ties and other international problems.

Velayati Begins 3-Day Visit to Athens

For Greek and Iranian media accounts of the visit to Greece by an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Velayati, including his talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Papoulias and Prime Minister Papandreou, see the Greece section of the 29 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Deputy Oil Minister Leaves for Algiers, Poland

LD251114 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—Iranian deputy oil minister for gas affairs Mozaffar Jarrahi heading a delegation left here for Algiers this morning. Jarrahi is also to visit Poland. In both countries he will discuss expansion of mutual cooperation with the Algerian and Polish officials.

SAIRI Head on Opposition to Islam

LD261951 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqr Hakim said that the East and West are supplying the Iraqi Ba'thist regime with all types of lethal weapons including chemicals in a bid to weaken Islam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim addressing a gathering of 5,000 Iraqi POW's Thursday, including several top Ba'thist officers recently captured in "Val-Fajr-10" operations said that the U.S. and the Soviet Union equip Saddam (Husayn) and instigate their regional lackeys against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the gathering which was covered by foreign and local reporters, the SAIRI head said that they (global arrogance) hate Islam and this is apparent in the trend of the war, which has reached its climax by Saddam's dastardly use of chemicals against Iraqi citizens themselves.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim hoped that the POW's who are the guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran would soon participate in the war against the world arrogance along with their Iranian Muslim brethren, and liberate the Holy Qods.

He described the world arrogance-instigated war as not only a war against the Islamic Republic of Iran but also against the Muslim people of Iraq.

Missile Attacks, Ground Operations Continue

Iraqi Military Targets Shelled

LD291121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IRGC General Staff, in response to the attacks yesterday by the criminal Iraqi regime against the residential areas of several of our country's cities, the powerful artillery of the Islamic forces last night and today heavily shelled the military-economic and industrial centers of the enemy in the cities of Basra, Al-Haritha, Al-'Uzayr, Al-Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Naft Khaneh, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Banmil, Khanaqin, and Mandali, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy"

IRGC, Kurds Kill 'Mercenaries'

LD291110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] According to the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for directing the irregular operations of the IRGC Ground Forces, the ever-victorious fighters of this headquarters, in cooperation with the peshmerga of the brave Kurdish hezbollah of Iraq, carried out mine-planting operations in (Khayr-Huk), in Iraq's Irbil Province.

They destroyed two Ba'thist Iraqi Army vehicles, thus killing a number of mercenaries of the Iraqi regime, including an Iraqi officer.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Cities

LD291657 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Aircraft of the criminal Iraqi regime today bombed several residential areas of the cities of Bakhtaran, Khorramabad, Abadan and Hamadan. In these raids nine of our compatriots were martyred and a number of people were injured. Several houses were either destroyed or damaged. The report says that in the air raid on Khorramabad, which took place at 1603, a mosque and two schools were damaged.

Air Force, Navy Operations

LD291104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] According to a report from the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the proud pilots of the Air Force, backing the fighters of Islam, at 0650 and 0710 flew their fighter bombers into the Faqqeh operational sector, and at 0813, 0950, 1000, 1122, 1130, and 1145 today, in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational sector, smashed Zionist enemy positions, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Zionist Iraqi regime. All returned safely to base.

The General Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced: The brave fighters of the 3d sector of the IRGC Navy this morning, in the course of two patrol and combat operations, got close to the Al-Bakr jetty and rained heavy fire on the enemy forces and equipment stationed there. As a result, a number of heavy and medium armored vehicles and equipment of the Zionist enemy, including several 57-mm antiair defense guns were destroyed and set on fire. At the end of these operations the brave troops of the monotheist army all returned safely to base.

Air Force Raids Enemy Positions

LD291716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Following the completion of eight extraterritorial missions, the fighter bombers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces carried out raids against enemy positions this afternoon in the "Val-Fajr-10" and Faqqeh areas at 1820, 1825, 1830 and 1840. These raids were carried out by the brave pilots of our homeland's Air Force.

3 Iraqi Missiles Hit Esfahan

LD300847 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Esfahan, March 30, IRNA—Three Iraqi missiles hit three residential quarters here Wednesday morning martyring and wounding a number of residents. Several homes, shops and a mosque were destroyed in the latest Iraqi attack on this city. Several automobiles have also been destroyed.

Communique No 3,165

LD291809 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—Iranian aircraft heavily struck at enemy concentration sites and fortifications in Faqqeh at 06:50, and 07:10 hours local time and in "Val-Fajr-10" operational region, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, at 08:13, 09:50, 10:00, 11:22, 11:30, 11:45, 18:20, 18:25, 18:30, and 18:45 hours local time Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties on the enemy forces. All aircraft returned safely to bases.

Announcing the above today, the Joint Staff War Communique 3165 said that missile unit of the Iranian armed forces fired two missiles on the military, economic and industrial installations in Mandali inflicting damage on them. The Iraqi regime to stop its brutal. [sentence as received]

The Air Force anti-aircraft fire shot down two Iraqi war planes in "Val-Fajr-10" operational region at 15:50 and 17:52 hours local time Tuesday.

The artillery fire of Muslim combatants pounded military and economic centers of the Iraqi Ba'thist troops in Naft Khaneh, Banmil, Khanaqin, Mandali, Badrah and 'Ali al-Gharbi.

The Iraqi forces reorganising two brigades backed by tanks, launched a counteroffensive in Faqqeh operational region at 01:00 hours Monday (21:30 GMT Sunday) but were repelled suffering heavy casualties. Muslim combatants captured several Iraqi Ba'thists and destroyed their equipment and batteries of Battalion 28 and 49 killing most of them.

An Iraqi helicopter was shot down in Nahr 'Anbar operational region at 14:00 hours local time (10:30 GMT) March 26 [date as received].

Muslim combatants' artillery fire also shelled enemy motorized columns in Qasr-e Shirin, Nahr 'Anbar and northeastern operational regions setting afire several light and heavy vehicles and contained enemy movements and logistical activities.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Air Force carried out effectively its reconnaissance missions in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman region.

The communique concluded that Naval forces of the Islamic Republic in addition to controlling shipping activities in the Strait of Hormuz chased off two enemy vessels near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah jetties as well as forcing to flee an Iraqi warplane which intended to bomb an oil platform.

Air Raid on Al-Sulaymaniyah

LD301054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The courageous and heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in retaliation for the chemical bombings against the innocent Kurdish people of Halabjah and the enemy's attacks on our residential areas yesterday and today, mounted one of the most intense air raids this morning and heavily bombed three important military garrisons and the Iraqi radio and television building in Al-Sulaymaniyah.

As a result of this bombing, one of the most intense retaliatory bombings by our country's Air Force, these buildings were covered in clouds of smoke and fire. During this operation, the brave Air Force pilots dropped more than 10 tons of bombs, including a 1.5 ton bomb, on the three garrisons and the radio and television building of Al-Sulaymaniyah and inflicted fatal and terrifying blows on these centers. Dozens of Iraqi military mercenaries and administrative staff, working in those centers, were killed or wounded during these great air raids.

Commander Warns of Retaliation

LD301201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, the commander of Iran's Air Force, has said the following about today's operations by the forces of Islam: Today's operations by the courageous Air Force pilots were carried out in retaliation for the bloody tragedy of Halabjah, which led to the martyrdom of 5,000 Iraqi Kurds, and in response to the enemy's crimes in attacking our country's residential areas.

In these operations eight Air Force fighter planes took part. He added: After the destruction of the targets, all our courageous pilots safely returned to base.

Brig Gen Sattari stressed: Our Air Force pilots are now enjoying very high morale and are ready for operations; they are prepared to give a strong reply to each mischievous deed by the enemy. He warned Baghdad's rulers: Today's operations by our pilots should be a good lesson to the Iraqi regime, and Baghdad's rulers should realize that should the enemy continue its atrocities, the Air Force pilots will carry out similar operations with all their might against military and economic centers in other Iraqi cities.

14 Missiles Fired at Iraq

LD301100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff and the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: In retaliation for the enemy's missile attacks this morning on residential areas of Esfahan, 14 surface-to-surface missiles were fired at noon today at the enemy's military, economic, and industrial installations in Al-Zubayr and Mandali, which inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

The IRGC General Staff and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed: Retaliatory operations by the forces of Islam will continue until the warmongering regime of Iraq halts its atrocities.

POW's Transferred Behind Lines

LD271206 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Jerusalem Operation Theater, March 27, IRNA—At least 350 Iraqi POWS captured in the "Jerusalem-4" operations have been transferred rear of the frontlines.

During the operations Iranian combatants liberated 50 square kms. of Iraq's soil in Sirvan region, and were stationed on strategic Shakh Shemiran [name as received] heights. Over 20 Iraqi tanks were seized intact by the Muslim forces in the operations launched Saturday night.

Shakh Shemiran heights lies between Darband Khan Lake and dam from the west, Iranian-liberated town of Halabjah from the north, Khanaqin region from the South and Iranian borders from the east.

Kurds Warn European Companies

LD291837 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, March 29, IRNA—Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) warned European companies helping the Iraqi Ba'thist regime produce chemical arms that their staff and experts would be considered as war criminals if captured by KDP peshmergas.

A KDP statement released here today categorically condemned the Baghdad regime's crimes in chemically bombing of Iraqi town of Halabjah as a result of which some 5,000 Iraqi Kurds were martyred and thousands of others wounded.

KDP gave notice to countries taking part in the massacre of children and women to force the Iraqi regime to stop its brutal attacks and instead send their medical aid to Iraqi Kurdistan.

KDP revealed that the companies producing chemicals are based in Qaem [name as received], Samarra and Badouche [name as received] cities, and that West Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands are actively assisting Iraq in manufacturing chemical weapons.

Cabinet Discusses Educational Facilities

LD301136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] During today's cabinet meeting, the ministers discussed ways of continuing the activities of educational establishments in the areas vulnerable to the enemy's air raids. The cabinet decided that the schools, which are among the targets of the criminal Ba'thist enemy and the concentration points of the revolution's children, should be closed and that the radio and television and other educational centers should employ their resources to continue the task of teaching.

The cabinet also made the necessary decisions on the teaching timetable of the universities, in view of the government's policy to protect the resources of the revolution, that is, the lecturers and students. Each university will announce its plans in line with its teaching subjects and facilities.

The cabinet also discussed the executive regulations on the country's imports and exports for the year 1367 [21 March 1988 to 20 March 1989] and 12 amended articles were ratified by the Council of Ministers. According to this report, the policies inserted in the ratified articles on exports are as follows: Support for nonoil exports; the creation of more facilities for importing high quality raw materials for the manufacture of export commodities by the manufacturing and industrial units; speedier payment of awards to exporters of nonoil products in order to encourage them further; and insuring the nonoil export consignments.

According to this report, three checks with a total value of 9 million rials, donated by the cooperative members of the shirtmakers guild of Tehran and its suburbs, were handed over to the prime minister to help the war effort and the reconstruction of bombed areas.

Shelter Building Continues in Central Province

LD292238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] So far 375 shelters have been built in the Central Province at the cost of 3.97 billion rials and are being used. The supervisor of the headquarters for the reconstruction of bombed regions and the official in charge of shelter building in the Central Province, in an interview with IRNA, said: Out of this number of shelters, 177 have been built in educational establishments and the rest in public thoroughfares, administrative offices, and factories.

He added: At present, 33 more shelters are under construction in the Central Province and by allocating necessary credit, shelter building work will continue at a high speed during the current year.

The supervisor of the headquarters for reconstruction of the bombed regions of the Central Province added: So far, some 70 percent of the residential and commercial units damaged by the Zionist enemy's bombings have been rebuilt in the cities of Arak, Tafresh, Khomeyn and Ashtian. The owners have been compensated for their losses and the rest of the buildings will be reconstructed in the current year. He went on: Last year, in coordination of the Money and Credit Council, the National Bank allocated 2.5 billion rials for payment of interest-free loans to the people whose houses were damaged by enemy bombings.

So far, 1 billion rials has been given to applicants. He added: In order to supply the basic commodities to the families who have incurred losses, last year 286 carpets, 250 refrigerators, and 300 television sets were distributed in the Central Province. Those people whose cars were 70 percent damaged were given permits with a money order to purchase new cars; and for all minor damage, each private car owner was given a sum of up to 200,000 rials. The owners of public vehicles were given the same new permits, plus a sum as a subsidy.

In conclusion, he said that all individuals who intend building private shelters in the Central Province can receive technical assistance, and building materials have been allocated to them.

Commentary on Halabjah, Anti-Kurd Campaign
NC261253 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0553 GMT 26 Mar 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Excerpts] The international community has remained silent about Saddam's massive crime of bombing Halabjah with chemicals, and has indicated its preference for carrying out the tasks that the United States has delegated, rather than performing its moral duty. This atrocity cannot be forgotten by requesting that silence be maintained on the subject.

The city of Halabjah, a center of Sunni theological seminaries, particularly for the Kurdish Muslim clerics, was one of Iraqi Kurdistan's cultural centers. This was one of the factors that motivated Saddam to bomb Halabjah with chemical weapons. The people of this city, who possess a highly developed religious insight because of their close proximity to the seminaries and their familiarity with Islamic culture, did not succumb to Saddam's pressure and continually displayed opposition to this pawn of the oppressors. It was for this reason that these people were massacred so brutally.

One must not forget that the divine laws of retribution are such that those who cause trouble for others will be ruthlessly treated themselves. Saddam has, in fact, lost his hold on Iraqi Kurdistan by bombing Halabjah with chemicals and has expedited his own nemesis. [passage omitted]

Even though the weak international community made no efforts to investigate the crime committed in Halabjah, the world's Muslims and the Kurds in particular, who are present everywhere, will pursue this unforgettable incident for eternity. In light of the Friday's gory incident in Halabjah, which has added to the blackened pages of the war criminal Saddam's dossier, those who harbored even the slightest doubts about continuing the war until Saddam was toppled will never again have any fears about it. Now everyone understands that making peace with a war criminal is meaningless. [passage omitted]

What occurred in Halabjah was a puare act of vengeance against the Iraqi Kurds, according to Baghdad's point of view. The Kurds are not prepared to accept the shame of being ruled by the Baghdad regime. The fact is that Saddam has inflicted the worst blow to the Ba'thist regime's existence through his action in Halabjah. Therefore, he has added more to the file of his war crimes against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

In his efforts to wreak vengeance on the people of Kurdistan, Saddam resorted to tactics which caused international propaganda to rally against him, a major blow to a dependent regime whose supporters were unable to defend his criminal actions or to justify his heinous atrocities. This is occurring when the Ba'thist regime is in dire need of the oppressors' propagandastic support, because it is on the basis of this kind of support that until now he has been able to justify his crimes.

Western mass media made an interesting point recently in affirming that the worst enemy of the Baghdad regime is the regime itself. Saddam has proved the truth of this allegation by committing a major crime in Halabjah. With this new occurrence of crimes, Saddam has aroused the Kurds' desire for revenge and has made them more resolute than ever to wage a war against the Baghdad regime. [passage omitted]

A cursory glance at the present situation in the Islamic world reveals the bitter truth that all the Muslims in the Islamic world are being subjected to the worst kind of repression by the oppressors or their puppet rulers. This is an extremely bitter fact which makes one ask: Why are Muslims being tyrannized in this way, and why are they the victims of plots coming from all sides, from foreign powers or their lackeys?

The incidents in occupied Palestine, the mass genocide by the Ba'thist rulers in Iraq, the events in Egypt and the Egyptian regime's crimes against Muslim activists, the heartbreaking occurrences in Afghanistan, as well as the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's crime of bombing and attacking Iran's cities and residential areas with missiles—all these have given the people a common cause which has mitigated for Muslims the bitterness of these occurrences to a bearable extent. All Muslims are firmly against these crimes and are determined to break the backs of the enemies of Islam with their exemplary fortitude and to make them regret any test of force against Islam. [passage omitted]

Commentary on 'War of Cities,' Retaliation
LD291413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Station commentary: "Missile Attacks, a New Conspiracy"]

[Excerpts] It has been 1 month since the Ba'thist enemy resumed its new round of atrocities by attacking residential areas and civilians. These atrocities, planned with the investment and direct involvement of the superpowers to create psychological pressure and panic among the public, resumed with an unprecedented volume and intensity in order to impose unjust peace conditions and to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to submit to the will of major powers.

The attacks on residential areas, destruction of public buildings, and massacre of civilians which has been tested frequently in the course of the imposed war with much greater intensity and ferocity, particularly along the border regions closer to the battlefronts, has proved that the fate of the war cannot be changed by attacking civilians in the so-called war of the cities.

However, it seems that a collection of circumstances—the current international situation and the new facilities placed at the disposal of the enemy—once again persuaded the Ba'thist enemy to resume a new round in the war of the cities. This is better understood by observing the type and frequency of the raids. The Iraqi regime and its supporters have been more hopeful this time, using more missiles in threatening Tehran, the country's political nerve centre.

The Ba'thist criminals—by calculating that frequent missile attacks and intensive air raids might possibly create a wave of panic and public terror and ultimately turn the tide of war in their favor—resumed the war of the cities with prearranged supplies from some permanent members of the Security Council. However, Iran's self-control in the face of these mischievous deeds, the guerrilla operations in northern regions of Iraq, and the fear created by the military operations of the fighters of Islam further persuaded the Baghdad rulers to hasten its attacks on the cities. [passage omitted]

The retaliatory blow inflicted on the Ba'thist mercenaries was so accurate and effective that the enemy, on the verge of a total military defeat in the region, resorted to repeated chemical bombing raids on Kurdish villages, particularly on the city of Halabjah. The Iraqi option of using chemical weapons—while realizing that international organizations would once again protest, and bearing in mind that the inhabitants of Halabjah had no means of protecting themselves against chemical weaons—clearly demonstrates the desperation and helplessness of the Iraqi armed forces. Baghdad's persistence in using chemical weapons is also indicative of the fact that the Iraqis are trying to postpone their certain defeat on the battlefronts.

Iraq's hoped-for gain from the resumption of the war of the cities and missile attacks has resulted in nothing but the loss of five important Iraqi cities and disgrace at the international level. In this connection, we witness daily demonstrations in Europe and other countries, where the embassies and representative offices of the Iraqi regime are stoned in reprisal for their barbarous chemical attack on the residential areas of Halabjah and the massacre of this city's defenselss people. [passage omitted]

The main objectives of the recent missile conspiracy were defeated and the Iraqi regime has suffered heavy blows militarily and politically. The Iraqi regime's persistence in continuing missile attacks has no military or political value, and is mostly undertaken to save face. Recent developments once again proved that only resistance and steadfastness in the face of conspiracies of the Ba'thist enemy, and appropriate and measured reprisal at appropriate times and in suitable places are the best reply to the enemy's moves.

Flag of Freedom Notes Anti-Khomeyni Protests

TA241852 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that in recent days as Tehran was being attacked by Iraqi missiles, the capital's inhabitants displayed their opposition to the Islamic government's policy by staging scattered demonstrations against the war's continuation and Ruhollah Khomeyni's regime.

According to this report, in these scattered demonstrations the people chanted the slogan "Death to Khomeyni, death to velayat-e faqih" and called for an end to the war.

Our fellow strugglers add that in recent days several demonstrations were held in various parts of Tehran against Ruhollah Khomeyni's warmongering policy, and after explicitly and courageously condemning the war's prolongation and chanting the slogan "Death to Khomeyni," the demonstrators dispersed in order to continue their demonstration in other areas.

Nepal

Nav Raj Subedi Delegation Visits PRC

For Chinese media coverage of the visit of Rashitriya Panchayat Chairman Nav Raj Subedi and his delegation to the People's Republic of China, including their meeting with Peng Zhen, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 18 March China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged With Afghan Envoy Over Bombing

BK291546 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] Ten Afghan military aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on the 23d of this month and dropped 20 bombs on the Domandai region of Chaman sector of Baluchistan. Two persons were killed. On the same day, the Afghan Armed Forces fired five artillery shells which landed to the south of (Ghaqhai) in Bajaur Agency, killing two persons and injuring one.

A strong protest has been lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires over these unprovoked attacks.

President Interviewed on Proximity Talks

OW291415 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1219 GMT 29 Mar 88

[From the "News Center 9" program: "Exclusive" interview with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by NHK correspondent Akihisa Hashimoto in Islamabad on 26 March—recorded; interview conducted in Urdu with Japanese subtitles]

[Text] [Hashimoto] What do you think of the current Geneva negotiations?

[Ziaul Haq] We hope that the current talks will be our final, conclusive negotiations. There is no reason to prolong these negotiations. At any rate, we would like to make the current talks our final negotiations.

In this way, it will be possible to achieve the Soviet military withdrawal and the refugees' return to their native land. It will also be possible for Afghanistan to gain independence as a nonaligned country.

It is entirely possible that the current negotiations will culminate in the signing of an agreement. The establishment of a provisional government is not a condition for the Geneva negotiations. If the United States, the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran cooperate and entrust UN Under Secretary General Cordovez with special authority and responsibility, it may open a new phase in establishing a provisional government.

There is a distinct possibility that an agreement will be signed, and we would like to achieve a comprehensive solution after the agreement is signed. That is, after the signing, the various nations concerned and the UN under secretary general will hold consultations in order to facilitate the establishment of a new government. To this end, cooperation among the United States, the Soviet Union, and the UN under secretary general is imperative. At any rate, we would like to make the current talks our final negotiations.

The Afghan question is not a regional issue, it is an international issue. Various factors intermingle in this issue. However, from Pakistan's viewpoint, we can say that the establishment of a provisional government is outside the range of the Geneva negotiations.

Editorial on Afghan Talks, Border Security
BK291425 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu
22 Mar 88 p 10

[Editorial: "The Threat of a New Round of Subversive Activities"]

[Text] According to a dispatch from our special correspondent in Geneva, an Afghan diplomat who is currently attending the Geneva negotiations announced that missile attacks will now be launched against Pakistani aircraft, refugee camps, and other installations, for which training is being provided to subversive elements.

In making this announcement, the diplomat quoted the news conference of Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil in which the latter threatened to extend the Afghanistan war up to Pakistan's borders if an agreement is not signed at Geneva.

Controversial reports are coming in about the current round of the Geneva proximity talks, and there is no doubt that signing the Geneva agreement can only prove helpful in the settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan has announced on more than one occasion that after the settlement of the outstanding issues, it will not delay even a moment in signing the agreement. There is no denying the fact that the Afghan regime is fighting for its survival, which is being threatened by the gradual emergence of the element of realism in the process of the Geneva negotiations.

If Pakistan succeeds in bringing home to the Soviet Union, just as it did to the United States, that the hope for a peace settlement in Afghanistan is useless without a guarantee to form a transitional government and to assist the mujahidin and refugees in returning to their homeland with honor, peace, andl security, it will certainly result in the fall of the present Kabul regime. On this basis, the Afghan foreign minister's threat can only be considered as a pressure tactic and an expression of consternation. Kabul cannot achieve this objective—it has not been able to during past 8 years—even by threatening Pakistan at a time when the Soviet troops are making preparations for their return from Afghanistan and the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has made a commitment to the international community to withdraw troops from that country.

The Afghan foreign minister's threat is understandable in view of the instigations from India and his own desire to ascertain a position for himself in the future. However, the manner in which the Afghan diplomat has linked it with the subversive activities in Pakistan is a matter of contemplation for us.

During the past 8 years, Pakistan has been the center of subversive activities by the KGB and KHAD. Attacks on roads, railway tracks, bridges, and other installations; the hijacking of planes; bomb explosions in the busy areas; murders of the patriotic personalities; and a series of other such activities have gone on for quite some time. The terrorist activities generally increase when the Afghan talks resume in Geneva.

The suspicion that KGB agents have infiltrated the Afghan refugees is not groundless. Several plans to supply lethal arms and explosives to different parts of the country have also been unearthed, and information about the arrival of the foreign agents in the country is occasionally unearthed by the international mass media and by secret agencies.

We should not be awestruck nor frightened by the threat of the Afghan diplomat nor should we dampen the spirits of the people by creating panic and fear. However, at the same time, it would not be wise to totally ignore the threat and stand idly by. Therefore, it is the duty of those concerned agencies responsible for maintaining peace and order and for protecting the life and property of the people to eliminate these threats.

In this country, there is no dearth of civil and military intelligence agencies. It is their duty to maintain strict vigilance against the agents of Pakistan's enemies within the country. Instead of conducting lengthy investigations

of every incident, which the nation has been witnessing for a long time now, they should take steps to ensure the enemy does not get the opportunity to attack our national installations, sensitive places, and our aircraft.

Besides the explosive materials and lethal weapons, the presence of foreign agents inside the country is not a secret anymore. It is the duty of our concerned agencies to take timely steps to foil every plot causing destruction in the urban areas through lethal weapons. During the past 8 years, the nation has demonstrated courage, valor, patience, and restraint under all difficult circumstances, but everything has a limit. Therefore, instead of expecting patience and restraint from the people at all times, the government agencies should improve their performance.

The Pakistani people want to see a successful conclusion of the Geneva negotiations and the end of fighting inside Afghanistan. However, while hoping for the best, the nation must also be ready to face the worst. It is also the duty of citizens to always remain vigilant and to maintain a careful watch all around them instead of depending solely on government agencies. They should never overlook any suspicious-looking person.

It is also the responsibility of the employees of the business centers and hotels to monitor the activities of Pakistani and foreign visitors to and guests of their establishments, paying due respect to them. However, whenever and wherever they suspect anything, they must rise above their selfish interests and not hesitate in the discharge of their duties as citizens of this country. Nations do pass through such difficult stages, but dynamic nations face them with courage and with a sense of responsibility.

One more aspect to which the government's attention needs to be drawn is the question of punishing the people involved in the subversive activities in the country. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and other responsible personalities have repeatedly assured the nation that the criminals found involved in subversive activities will be hanged at the same spot where they committed their crimes. Special courts have been set up to ensure speedy disposal of cases relating to such crimes, and criminals involved in bomb blasts and other destructive activities have been arrested in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Karachi, and other places.

The trial of some of these criminals has been completed and the courts have already passed death sentences on them. However, thus far, none of these ruthless criminals has been hanged where they spilled the blood of innocent civilians in their attempt to destabilize the country.

The process of public hanging, begun in Punjab, is limited to those persons accused of murders and other crimes only, and, thus far, not a single saboteur and foreign agent has been punished in public. This has encouraged the criminals and disheartened the people. The people may not be disheartened, but, they are certainly in the grip of an unknown fear. It is now publicly known that the persons involved in the bomb blasts get incentives from antinational forces and, in the absence of any fear of punishment, the internal and foreign agents of the enemy get plenty of opportunities to display their destructive capabilities.

The government, therefore, must improve the efficiency of its relevant agencies to completely check the recurrence of subversive incidents and it must not refrain from giving timely and deterrent punishment to the persons involved in past subversive activities in order to prevent such crimes and to enable the people to live in peace and tranquillity.

Sri Lanka

JVP Attack on Urban Council Meeting Wounds 10

BK290328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] members attacked an urban council meeting at Matara, 160 km southeast of Colombo, wounding 10 persons. Matara police told our correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that two men lobbed three hand grenades at the urban council hall and escaped in the melee. Six of the injured are councillors. They have been admitted to hospital.

Police Arrest Subversive Elements, Recover Arms

BK290916 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0835 GMT 29 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—Police in the North Central Province district of Polonnaruwa, 216 kilometres from Colombo, have solved ten murders allegedly committed by subversives following cordon and search operations conducted by security forces, Sunday.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH today that a clerk attached to the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation at Kantale, 220 kilometres east of Colombo, was one of the 12 subversive suspects arrested in connection with investigations into ten recent murders in the neighbourhood of Polonnaruwa District.

They said the breakthrough came when a man suspected of subversive activities was arrested by security forces in a cordon and search operation Saturday. The suspect had allegedly made a statement confessing three murders and gave the police at Polonnaruwa details of operations in the district of the Desapremaya Viyaparaya, military wing of the proscribed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

This resulted in the arrest of a number of other suspects and the recovery of several weapons allegedly used in the murders. A T-56 automatic rifle, one repeater shot gun, and four hand grenades were found buried in a canal bund [embankment], at Giritale, 20 kilometres away from Polonnaruwa Town.

Thws led the investigators to Kantale and the recovery of three repeater shot guns and the arrest of the sugar corporation clerk.

Indian Trawler With Explosives Intercepted
BK291312 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1220 GMT 29 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—This morning at 0300 hours (local time) the Sri Lankan Navy apprehended an Indian trawler between the islands of Kachchaitivu and Delft in Sri Lanka's northern territorial waters, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The vessel was carrying 225 sticks of gelignite in 7 cardboard boxes with the Indian markings SG90 made by (?the) explosives division of Gominar, India, two cloth bags containing 168 bed sheets and 16 packets of hooks for brassieres.

The crew of four Indian and six Sri Lankans, including a woman, were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy and handed over to the Karainagar base in northern Sri Lanka.

Policeman Shot Dead at Tangalla 29 March
BK291134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] One policeman was shot dead and another seriously wounded at Tangalla in southern Sri Lanka this morning. A senior police officer told LANKA PUWATH News Agency that Police Sergeant Priyadasa of the district intelligence bureau of the Tangalla police station was riding to work on his motorcycle with Police Constable Sirisena on the pillion when an unidentified gunman, believed by police to be subversive, hiding behind a tree, shot at the two policemen, killing the police sergeant and seriously wounding the police constable.

A senior police official told LANKA PUWATH that the death weapon was believed to be a T-56 automatic rifle. The incident occurred at 1015 this morning in Tangalla.

LTTE Transmitting False News To Mislead Forces
BK251122 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1059 GMT 25 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—The LTTE is badly demoralised and logistically weak. In desperation, the terrorists have been detected attempting to mislead the Indian and Sri Lankan security forces by transmitting false news of LTTE operations, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said the LTTE is in a bad way and have now resorted to this sort of tactic, which, however, has been detected by the military who have not been deceived by the latest LTTE ruse.

Meanwhile, official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the EPRLF and TELO had yesterday staged hartals [strikes] in Mannar and Mullaittivu respectively to protest against the LTTE's slaughter of Sinhalese and Muslim civilians.

The sources said public response to these hartals organized against the LTTE was positive and shops, offices, and even public establishments were closed.

The EPRLF and TELO have demanded that the LTTE immediately halt its attacks on innocent civilians. Official sources also said the LTTE had increased armed robberies on civilians as its funds were low.

Tamil 'Guerrillas' Set Fire to Muslim Shops
BK271220 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] Colombo, March 27 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas have torched Muslim shops in eastern Sri Lanka sparking fears of communal violence, police and residents said Sunday.

Fighters of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set fire to dozens of Muslim shops in the main bazaar of Kalmunai town overnight Saturday, a police spokesman said. No casualties were reported.

There was tension in the region as Muslims in neighbouring villages closed shops and staged a protest strike Sunday which halted transport, residents in Kalmunai, 390 kilometers (240 miles) from here, said by telephone.

Tension has been mounting between the two communities since March 20 when LTTE gunmen shot dead a moderate Tamil politician who had close links with the Muslim minority, the spokesman said. He said Indian troops and local police have stepped up patrols in the area to prevent an outbreak of fresh violence.

The latest attack came a day after LTTE gunmen killed four Muslim fishermen in northeastern Trincomalee District.

The LTTE has carried out several attacks on Muslims and Sinhalese in the Eastern Province in an attempt to gain overall dominance by driving them out of the region, the spokesman said.

The LTTE has rejected an Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil separatist campaign. Some 52,000 Indian troops deployed in the north and east under the terms of the accord have been fighting a bush war against the LTTE since October. Nearly 400 Indian soldiers and 1,400 suspected rebels have died in the fighting.

6 Killed in Time Bomb Explosion on Bus

BK290937 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0925 GMT 29 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo March 29, (LANKA PUWATH)—Six civilians were killed and a quite a large number believed injured when a time bomb exploded in a bus proceeding from Medawachchiya to Horowpatana about 1115 hours local time [0545 GMT] today, police told LANKA PUWATH.

They said the bus had passed Kahatagasdigiliya and was at Wemalkatiya, 110 miles from Colombo and was proceeding a further 20 miles to its destination—Horowpatana—along the Anuradhapura-Trincomalee road when the explosion occurred. The injured were rushed to Madawachchiya and Anuradhapura hospitals.

Police also told LANKA PUVATH that preliminary investigations pointed to the bomb being planted by the LTTE gang of terrorists.

IPKF Kills 11 LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK301032 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0941 GMT 30 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—Eleven LTTE terrorists were killed and three captured in a 12 hour gun battle with Indian troops in the thick jungles of Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka yesterday. The 12 hour battle began at 0600 hours (local time) and ended at 1800 hours (local time) yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The scene of the battle was at Tunukkai-Malavi in the Vavuniya sector. The IPKF seized large stocks of food rations and radio communication equipment in its rout of the major LTTE jungle base.

A report from Trincomalee states that the principal of the Kinniya Girls' School complained to authorities that she was carrying Rs 25,000, the payroll of the teachers of the Kinniya Girls' School on March 23 in a bus, when an armed terrorist had robbed her at gun point and threatened her not to report the matter to the authorities. Hence, through fear, she had only reported the matter yesterday, five days after the robbery.

A report from Pesalai in Mannar states that LTTE terrorists fired on a Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter but the bullets missed their mark and the aircraft was not damaged.

Meanwhile, reports also state one Indian soldier was killed and two wounded after they were caught in booby trap explosion at Navakalam in the Trincomalee District.

One LTTE terrorist codenamed Thivan was killed and another codenamed Salri was wounded when Indian troops repulsed LTTE attacks on a camp in eastern Batticaloa.

A further report from Jaffna states that an LTTE terrorist codenamed Damminder committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule when about to be captured by Indian troops.

Indian Team Suggests Two Highway Projects

BK271609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 88

[Text] The high-level Indian rehabilitation team which visited Sri Lanka recently has recommended construction of two important link roads. One of these is to link the Northern and Eastern Provinces joining Mullaitivu with Trincomalee, and other to connect Vavuniya with Jaffna via Mahadev coastway. Indian high commission sources told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the team also recommended steps for reviving fishing, farming, construction of houses, and resettlement of widows.

Meanwhile, three PKF soldiers were injured in a landmine blast in Trincomalee this morning.

Paper on Indian Peace Efforts in North, East

BK221032 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 13 Mar 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] It is understood that the Government of India has been making diplomatic and political efforts to establish lasting peace in the north and the east. It is also understood that some important Indian ministers are involved in these behind-the-scenes activities.

As a part of these activities, the Indian minister for home affairs, P. Chidambaram, has established contacts with important LTTE cadres. It has been learned from informed sources that these contacts took place in

Madras a few days ago. Simultaneously, talks have also been held with the important cadres of other extremist organizations based in Madras.

The scheduled return to Colombo on 10 March of the Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, who left for New Delhi on 4 March, has been put off.

Meanwhile, one of the Indian military officials [in Sri Lanka], Major General D.P. Singh, has held talks with the Batticaloa Mothers' Front two days ago. Singh is understood to have urged the front to give a guarantee in writing that if there is an announcement about a cease-fire [as published], the LTTE should lay down their arms and agree to hold talks.